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THE TIMES

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TUESDAY
30p
EVERY WEEKDAY



Life beyond Viagra
Dr Thomas Stuttford
page 20

LAW
With 7 pages of JOBS



Michael Gove
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Louise Woodward's mother accused of defence fund fraud



Woodward: trustees to hold emergency meeting today

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND RUSSELL JENKINS
THE trustees of the Louise Woodward defence fund are to hold an emergency meeting today after the British au pair's mother was accused of fraudulently claiming more than £9,000 from the fund.
Dan Sharp, whose wife was dismissed from Woodward's defence team last week, alleged that the Woodward had forged an invoice claiming that they had been charged to stay at his home. Mr Sharp said that they lived rent-free. Sue Woodward stayed at the couple's house for seven months

and was joined by her daughter in November when she was released from prison after her conviction for murdering eight-month-old Matthew Eappen was reduced to one of manslaughter.
Mrs Woodward, who is now at home in Cheshire, dismissed the allegations and said that Elaine Whitfield Sharp appeared to be out for revenge.
Ms Whitfield Sharp was dismissed from the Woodward legal team last week after apparently casting doubt on her client's innocence. The lawyer had been stopped for drink-driving and is reported to have told the trooper who arrested her that she believed

Woodward was guilty of killing Matthew. She denied that, but later told a newspaper that Woodward was a pain in the ass and a liar.
Yesterday her husband appeared on Sky Television wielding an invoice apparently on his firm's letterhead on which his wife apparently requests Mrs Woodward to pay \$15,400 for seven months' rent as well as "use of telephone (including transatlantic calls), lighting, heating, garaging, food and other sundry household expenses".
Mr Sharp later said: "Sue Woodward stayed here scot-free. She was charged zero, zilch, zip, zed, nothing. This invoice is a

fraud, a forgery. I am not accusing anyone of anything. We're merely reacting to accusations against us. On Friday, I was rung by *The Boston Globe* newspaper, who said they'd received an invoice from Rev Davey of the defence fund. The reporter said: 'Isn't it true that the Woodward's stayed free? So how come there was an invoice for \$15,400?'
"I think the Reverend had received the fraudulent invoice, from people he trusted - the Woodward's - and was troubled by it. So he sent it to the *Globe*. We knew it was fraudulent immediately. We never asked for any money from Sue Woodward, and certainly

not \$15,400."
Mr Sharp went on to say that "Englishisms" gave the game away. "We're supposed to have charged for seven months at '2200 pcm', but I didn't even know until Friday what 'pcm' means. We just say per month in America. And the invoice is dated 'April 01'. We would simply have said 'April 1'." According to Mr Sharp, the "absolute clincher" was the fact that the invoice hyphenates Ms Whitfield Sharp's name. He said: "Surely my wife knows how to spell her own name. She never uses a hyphen."
Mr Sharp said that he had also obtained a copy of the reverse side of the invoice, on which there is a

note written in Mrs Woodward's "distinctive hand". The note says: "Paid from GW personal account." The "GW" is alleged to stand for Gary Woodward, Louise's father. Mr Sharp said: "Two things about this note make us certain that it's written by Susan Woodward. The first is the 'G', which is highly stylised, and of which we have numerous exemplars in our letters from her. The second is the word 'from'. The way she has written it is identical to the 'from' in a note she gave to my wife, when she once made her a present of a crocheted cross."
But Mrs Woodward said last
Continued on page 2, col 4

Prescott set to privatise air traffic control

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER
JOHN PRESCOTT is preparing to allow private companies to run Britain's air traffic control service in a deal with Gordon Brown to free extra money for transport projects.
In a pioneering plan to sell state assets to raise money for specific public services, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chancellor plan to raise up to £500 million for use mainly on repairing poorly-maintained roads. The possible sale of the National Air Traffic Service would reopen Labour wounds over a privatisation that many frontbench party spokesmen opposed on safety grounds before the general election.
Mr Prescott is understood to be studying proposals for a public-private trust to run the system in a "third way" scheme that would involve the Government as a minority stakeholder.
The air traffic system is one of the biggest remaining state assets and the private sector has made clear that it would be eager to take control of the profit-making company. Mr Brown and Mr Prescott are understood to have agreed last week to speed up moves aimed

at freeing money to kickstart transport improvements within two years.
Mr Prescott is anxious to increase the £3.7 billion road maintenance programme, which has fallen steadily from £4.4 billion in 1994/5. He has been assured that money raised from disposing of the air traffic service can be used to fund a raft of transport measures. He has been asked to draw up detailed plans within weeks on how the service, which handles more than 1.5 million flights a year, could be privatised or formed into a public-private trust able to borrow outside government constraints.
As part of the deal, Mr Prescott has agreed to delay a Transport White Paper, which was to be published in two weeks, until next month while further discussions take place on funding. The White Paper is expected to set out details of how motorists will be charged for driving in congested areas, and companies for employee parking spaces.
However, Mr Prescott is understood to have made clear to the Chancellor that such proposals will be hugely unpopular unless there is a substantial cash injection into transport. He has accepted that his White Paper will have increased credibility if it is published after Mr Brown unveils the results of his Whitehall spending review.
The privatisation of the air

traffic service, which was proposed by the Tory Government, caused problems for Labour in the run-up to the general election. After Andrew Smith, then Labour's transport spokesman, had ruled out the "crazy" privatisation, Margaret Beckett, as Shadow Trade and Industry secretary, admitted that no final decision had been taken.
The service controls commercial and other airlines flying over the busiest areas of Britain, although private controllers operate less congested airspace. Senior colleagues of Mr Prescott say that he is not "ideologically opposed" to selling off the service.
The move comes as ministers acted to allay fears that the restrictions on public spending would affect public services. The Treasury has identified transport, housing, health and education as its priority areas for increased investment as the year-long comprehensive spending review reaches its climax.
While the Government is clearly paving the way for extra capital spending to help it to meet its election pledges to cut waiting lists and class sizes, last week's announcement that it is aiming for surpluses on current spending in every year between now and the election means that the pay squeeze on millions of public sector pay workers, including nurses and teachers will continue.



Sir Paul McCartney arrives at St Martin-in-the-Fields yesterday to check the service arrangements

Pop world's elite pay last tribute to Linda

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON
THE sound of a Scottish piper playing *Mull of Kintyre* drifted over London's Trafalgar Square last night as the friends and family of Linda McCartney gathered to remember her.
St Martin-in-the-Fields, more used to hosting tributes to politicians, last night echoed to the sound of The Beatles and pop music's aristocracy paying homage to one of its most popular members.
Outside stood crowds of animal rights supporters and vegetarians, whose causes Lady McCartney did so much to promote. It was all in stark contrast to her funeral, when she was cremated and scattered in the desert silence of her Arizona ranch.
The music ranged from the Brodsky Quartet playing songs Sir Paul wrote for his wife to a rendition of *Let It Be* with the congregation joining in. The service ended with the playing of *Linda*, a song written for Lady McCartney when she was a child and recorded by Sir Paul as a surprise gift for her 45th birthday.
The period of silence and privacy sought by Sir Paul after his wife died, aged 56, from breast cancer in April appeared over as 700 family and close friends filed into the church. As they left, each was presented with a bunch of lily-of-the-valley, one of Lady McCartney's favourite flowers.
The presence of George Harrison and Ringo Starr made this the first public appearance of the three surviving Beatles in three decades. David Bailey, the photographer, and Pete Townshend, former leader of The Who, both made addresses as did Carla Lane, author of the television comedy *Bread* and a keen animal rights supporter, and Joanna Lumley. Other guests included Sir Elton John and Sting, Spike Milligan, Lord Putnam, the film producer, and Billy Joel.
Outside in a damp Trafalgar Square, representatives of a range of animal rights groups, including the People for The Ethical Treatment of Animals, held a vigil.

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Border town at the eye of the storm

YOUNG Eritrean fighters lay sniping on the veranda of Zalambessa's local bank. Financial statements from the remote Ethiopian Commercial branch fluttered down the main road leading to the front line on a breeze carrying the sickly smell of death.
Scattered about the border town, overrun by Eritrean forces last week, the corpses of Ethiopian soldiers killed in a "family dispute" that has, like so many, ended in violence, were being gathered up by work parties and dumped in a mass grave. For Zalambessa, the scene was almost routine.
Set in disputed territory, the dusty town of two streets, a few bars and shops, saw wave upon wave of conflict during

the Eritrean war for independence that ended after 30 years in 1991. Rusting hulks of Soviet-era tanks dot surrounding rocky hills and valleys as memorials to that war which cost at least 200,000 lives.
Untroubled by the arrival of Eritrean soldiers, Ethiopian civilians drifted back to their homes, dragging sacks holding the meagre possessions with which they fled into the wilderness. Documents

were checked and returning refugees waved on.
Some had recently received rations of American wheat to prevent starvation in a devastated moonscape. "They're our people. We speak the same language, many of them are our relatives, just for now they are on the wrong side," said a smiling young fighter, wearing the standard issue black plastic beach sandals of the Eritrean Army.

But the dreamlike atmosphere of Zalambessa, both Eritrean and Ethiopian officials have said, is likely to be shattered soon as efforts by Rwandan ministers and Susan Rice, the US Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs, to mediate at least a ceasefire appeared to be going nowhere.
"If you thought this was the calm before the storm, you would be right," said an Eritrean government spokesman.
Ethiopia yesterday warned its citizens to move out of the town of Burie, 50
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Most unsuited
Glenn Hoddle's insistence on beige suits is causing unrest in the England dressing room. Pages 3, 50, 51, 56

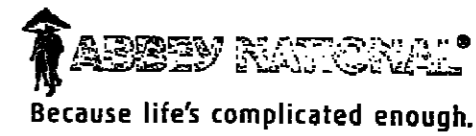
Blunkett pledge quells tuition fee rebellion

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR
DAVID BLUNKETT appeared to have headed off a backbench revolt over student tuition fees last night with an assurance that vulnerable groups would receive extra support from a £143 million package of grants and loans.
The only new concession announced by the Education Secretary was the extension of government-backed loans to students in their fifties. He guaranteed further help for the disabled, single parents and part-time students who lose their jobs.
Although 35 Labour MPs

had signed amendments to the Teaching and Higher Education Bill, several were absent when the debate opened.
Protests against the abolition of student grants and the introduction of £1,000-a-year fees for full-time undergraduates were taken to Downing Street before last night's vote. Left-wing MPs Tony Benn and Ken Livingstone joined comedian Rob Newman to hand in a student petition.
Student groups argued that the prospect of debts would deter students from poor families, but figures to be published this week will show a 1 per cent increase in applications from school-leavers.

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Tricky questions made simple by the great pretender

Yesterday at questions to the Social Security Secretary we saw Ms Harman in a new light. A feature in *The Daily Telegraph* had gushed: "Harriet Harman admits that sometimes she pretends to be stupid."

A mystery is solved! A generation of bewildered Commons watchers have wondered how anybody could be so dim. Why does she never engage with the question, never see the joke? Why does she answer by parroting single, simple phrases, repeat-

ed in a passionless monotone? Now we know. *She is only pretending to be stupid.*

Sometimes (she reveals in the article) she pretends never to have heard of the question. Asked once about nuclear emissions, "I didn't know what the line was". Afraid "people listening might think 'Bloody hell, what an airhead'; I kind of felt myself choosing to sound completely ignorant."

It was fascinating yesterday to watch Ms Harman employing this technique in her job as Secretary of State. "Most

women are somebody's daughter," she announced to astonished MPs: a thought which had occurred to few.

Helen Jackson (Lab, Sheffield Hillsborough) asked a more pointed question about helping women combine family with work, but Ms Harman did not take us much further. She told Mrs Jackson that "parents need time with their children". She offered an example: "Around the time of birth." On this Ms Harman must be right. She might have added that it is common for parents to be present at the

conception too. Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Women, waded in to assist in this ministerial seminar on the Facts of Life. "Women and men lead such very different lives," Mrs Ruddock breathed in tones tailor-made for a voice-over for a bathroom fresher called *Floral Breeze*. Mrs Ruddock had been describing her new Ministry for Women website, whose aim was "connecting women to Government". Bill Clinton could advise.

Mrs Ruddock mentioned her "electronic women's interactive network" though she never explained what an electronic woman was. The fearfully Celtic Maria Fyfe (Glasgow, Maryhill), who is more steam-powered than

electronic, suggested the Lord Chancellor should join Scottish football supporters on their trip to France, to teach the French about equal rights. The thought of Derry Irvine being made to paint his face blue and white was enough to recommend the proposal.

A new opposition spokeswoman, Theresa May, made a crisp start with a practical question about the taxation of playgroups. Amid exchanges awash with jargon and generality, she seemed to have come to the wrong session.

John Denham, a junior

social security minister, told the redoubtable Jackie Ballard (Lib Dem, Taunton) he was interested in proposals for a national scheme for registering nannies. Ofnan, perhaps — the nannies' nanny?

Then Ms Harman returned to the dispatch box, still pretending to be stupid. She read out her answer to her backbench colleague Tony McNulty (Harrow E) in the flat, inflexionless drone of a difficult schoolgirl forced to read aloud as punishment. "We've had to phase the roll-

out and do it slowly and at a measured pace," she droned. Having long ceased to understand ministers' answers, one begins to lose confidence they understand them themselves.

"We were in story-limitation mode," Ms Harman wittered in that *Telegraph* interview, "so I went round every economic forum and made myself look an airhead."

Ms Harman was succeeding yesterday beyond her wildest dreams. She's pretending, of course. But how will we know when she isn't?



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Norman poised to wield jobs axe over Tory HQ

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

STAFFING levels at Tory headquarters are to be cut to their lowest level yet in an attempt to avert a financial crisis.

Archie Norman, the party vice chairman who transformed the Asda supermarket chain from a moribund loss-making company into a market leader by cutting hundreds of jobs and closing loss-making stores, will attempt the same feat at Central Office.

Manpower levels, which have already been cut to 130 by the worst funding crisis in recent memory, will be reduced even further with up to 40 jobs expected to go in the Norman review.

The party has reached its

£4 million overdraft limit. The Royal Bank of Scotland, the party's bankers, will not extend it any further. William Hague, the party leader, is pinning his hopes on a membership drive bringing in the lost millions.

The situation is so critical that secretaries to Tory MPs, who are paid for out of taxpayers' funds, have been asked to spend half a day a week at Central Office. Labour MPs are expected to protest to the Speaker about the move.

The forthcoming cut will take the number of full-time employees below 100 for the first time since the Tories moved into Conservative Central Office 40 years ago. No

decision has been taken on which employees will be made redundant. The re-organisation will begin with a series of meetings this week. The latest round of economies underlines the scale of the financial problems facing the party after its worst election defeat this century.

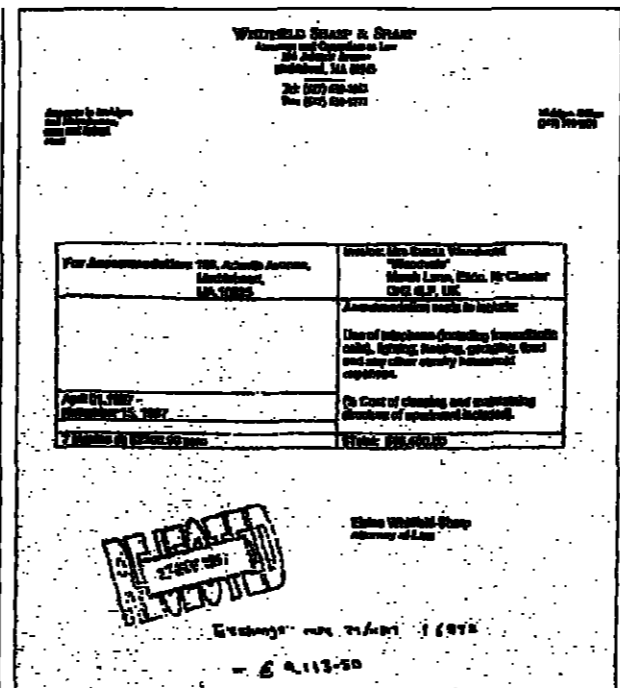
Donations from the business community have failed to materialise. With the Tories at rock bottom in the opinion polls and an election years off there is little prospect of any imminent financial relief.

A move out of the headquarters in Smith Square, a sprawling building on five floors, has been ruled out because the Tories cannot afford alternative premises.

The role model for the Tories is Millbank Tower, the Labour communications centre. A single touch to a computer keyboard on the first floor of the modern building facing the Thames sends daily faxes to the 400-plus Labour MPs with a briefing on details of any stories that have broken in the national press. Labour's line, and form of attack if the government is on the offensive.

A Tory source said: "By comparison Central Office is still in the prehistoric era. People in different departments don't speak to each other. They scribble away in the dark. There is no coherence. We are out of date and out of touch."

Having successfully reformed the local party organisation in the country Mr Norman will work closely with Michael Ancram, the heir apparent to Lord Parkinson as party chairman, to make radical changes.



The invoice claiming an accommodation charge

Woodward fund trustees to meet

Continued from page 1

night that the allegations were a load of rubbish. "It is just like Ms Whitfield Sharp is trying to get revenge for herself. She was sacked because she was not up to standard for the job of defending Louise."

"She said a lot of things which are untrue and which we can't defend. The trust manages the money it is all out of our hands. Every single penny is accounted for."

"It is almost like a smokescreen is being put up to cloud the real issue which is Louise's innocence. The only thing that we want to hear about is the verdict the appeal ruling is expected any day. We are all in a very stressful situation and the last thing we need is rubbish like these allegations."

Sandra McCabe, a member of the appeal committee which raised £284,000 for Woodward's defence, said that there would be an emer-

gency meeting of the trustees today. "They are going to have to look into this, but I find it hard to see why the Woodwards should have anything like this. Money has been freely available. I do not believe it. There is no motive because the money was there for them to claim on anyway."

Andrew Miller, the Labour MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston who has been an enthusiastic supporter of Woodward, said that the allegations made by Ms Whitfield Sharp were "demonstrably untrue" and that the original document, lodged with the trustees, was open to inspection.

Mr Miller said: "The accusation is that the Woodwards have forged a document purporting to be an invoice. The actual invoice which is undoubtedly a Whitfield Sharp document is real and genuine. The idea she stayed at the Whitfield Sharps for free is simply untrue."

£250,000 raised for defence of au pair

By Stephen Farrell

MORE than £250,000 donated to the Louise Woodward Campaign for Justice, set up to clear her name after the trial, was put into the Louise Woodward and Family Trust fund.

Her legal team announced in January that the money would be used to pay for her appeal against conviction for involuntary manslaughter.

Her defence costs during the original trial were met by the EF au pair agency, which placed her with the Eappens, but it refused to pay for the appeal.

In February, Gary and Susan Woodward, the au pair's parents, confirmed that the funds were disappearing. Last month the Woodwards' British lawyer, Paul Barrow, said there was only about £50,000 left. He said that £180,000 had been spent on the appeal, mainly on legal fees, living expenses and her parents' travelling costs to America.

These sums have been confirmed by the Rev Ken Davey, the vicar of Miss Woodward's home village of Elton, Cheshire, who runs the fund. He has estimated that the money would cover the appeal but not a retrial, which would cost about \$2 million (£1.2 million).

Last month one of Miss Woodward's lawyers, Elaine Whitfield-Sharps, reportedly told a policeman after being stopped for alleged drink-driving that she now believed the au pair to be guilty. She denies making the claims.

She is also said to have raised questions about where the trust fund money was going, and alleged that Miss Woodward had done a lucrative deal with a book publisher and a tabloid newspaper.

While the Woodwards refused to be publicly drawn into the row, they authorised the release of trust fund accounts.

Stones challenged to pay roadies' tax bill

The Government criticised the Rolling Stones yesterday after the band called off the British leg of their world tour in protest at tax changes that they claimed would cost them £12 million. The March Budget closed a loophole under which many Britons living abroad were exempt from taxes on their earnings if they spent less than 62 days a year here.

In the most serious clash so far between Labour and the music industry it has courted so hard, ministers let it be known that they had no intention of "being lectured on tax by tax evaders". They challenged the Stones to allow the tour to go ahead by paying the tax for their 270-strong crew. A Treasury source said: "These guys are claiming they are doing this on behalf of their roadies, who would be hit with a tax bill. We calculate it would total around £200,000. That's a snip in terms of what this tour will bring in."

Gordon Brown and Tony Blair did not make any public comments but the Chancellor's aides said that he believed that people should pay their proper share of taxes. The new policy was considered by the Government to be a "matter of fairness". One ministerial source said: "It's unfair that people who pay their taxes should have to subsidise those who do not pay any tax at all."

MacKenzie quits Mirror

Kelvin MacKenzie last night resigned unexpectedly as deputy chief executive and managing director of the Mirror Group. The former Editor of *The Sun* plans to lead a bid for Talk Radio, the national commercial speech radio station. A majority stake in the station has been put on the market by CLT-Bertelsmann, the German media group. Mr MacKenzie is being back by Apax, the venture capital fund that put together the money to allow Chris Evans to take control of Richard Branson's Virgin Radio. If the deal goes through Mr MacKenzie would be chief executive.

Maze post still unfilled

Four months after the Northern Ireland Prison Service advertised for a new Governor of the Maze it has been unable to find anyone willing and able to do the job. Applications for the £53,000-a-year post were sought from all three United Kingdom prison services in February but "no suitable candidates were identified," a spokesman said yesterday. "We are considering our next move." Sources said there were very little interest and an attempt to recruit Kevin Brewer, head of regime services in London, was unsuccessful.

Rugby star sued

Olivier Merle, right, the giant French rugby star, was sued in a Paris court yesterday for allegedly assaulting Ricky Evans of Wales during a 1993 Five Nations championship game. Mr Evans, 38, claimed that the 23-stone M Merle headbutted him during the match, leaving him with a broken nose and a fractured ankle. He is claiming at least £25,000 in loss of earnings and medical expenses.



Newspaper price vote

The Government is today expected to overturn a Lords attempt to ban newspapers from running price cutting campaigns. Ministers and Labour MPs will vote to remove a clause drawn up by the Liberal Democrats from the Competition Bill which specifically outlaws newspapers using predatory pricing to force competitors out of the market. The Government believes that existing provisions of the Bill make predatory pricing illegal and that a clause referring specifically to the newspaper market is unnecessary and unworkable.

Council deficit £3.5m

The alleged mismanagement of finances at East Ayrshire Council has resulted in a budget deficit of more than £3.5 million, it emerged yesterday as the ruling Labour group launched two separate inquiries into allegations of sleaze. The council confirmed that the shortfall in its Commercial Operations Department — responsible for housing and road repairs — was much higher than first thought. At the same time, the Labour group responded to two unconnected allegations involving Labour councillors by announcing an internal investigation.

Archer takes fight to enemy territory

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

LORD ARCHER will today launch his fightback against the growing campaign led by Tory grandees to stop him becoming mayor of London.

The millionaire novelist will challenge his critics in an article in today's *Evening Standard*, London's newspaper, which is opposed to his candidacy. The Archer offensive came after Sir Timothy Kitson, a former Tory MP and friend of William Hague, wrote to Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, to demand an investigation into the author's past.

The party leaders will decide whether to refer the demand to the powerful new ethics and integrity committee

which was set up by Mr Hague, who has pointedly publicly refused to back Lord Archer.

Tory Party officials refused to comment on the controversy yesterday. Lord Archer also kept an uncharacteristically low public profile. But last night he held a private party at his London penthouse, overlooking the River Thames, at which a number of Tory MPs were present.

The novelist, who refused to respond to press calls since the complaint was disclosed, chose the *Evening Standard* for the fightback because it is leading a media campaign to destroy his mayoral ambitions.

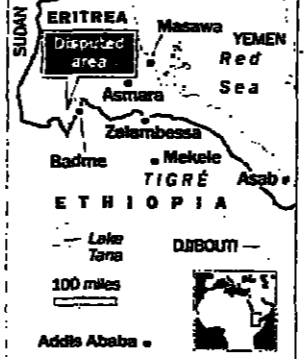
Soldiers in calm before storm

Continued from page 1

miles southwest of Asab, ahead of the opening of a third front in the escalating border conflict. Eritrean forces, another ten miles inside Ethiopia, were dug in on top of an escarpment looking down on Adigrat, the last Ethiopian outpost on the road between Addis Ababa and Asmara.

There were reports that 95 per cent of the former guerrillas of the Tigrean People's Liberation Front had been mobilised and were driving towards the outpost singing war songs and punching the air with their guns. Others were gathering in villages to be reissued with the assault rifles they could never have imagined they would soon have to use against their Eritrean neighbours.

After nearly a week of artillery duels, and the subsequent Eritrean push into Ethi-



opia, the big guns and "Stalin Organ" BM21 rocket launchers were silent. Eritrean fighters who fought alongside the Tigreans to depose Mengistu Haile Miriam, cleaned their armour and serviced T55 tank engines ahead of much anticipated orders to do battle. "We're ready. We're always ready. We could have gone

into Adigrat without a problem. But it is forbidden," said Benjamin Birhane.

Diplomatic efforts to prevent an escalation of a conflict in which Ethiopia can call on about 200,000 veteran soldiers and Eritrea about 110,000, continued yesterday at the Organisation of African Unity annual summit, but failed to offer even a glimmer of hope.

Neither Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia's Prime Minister, nor President Alewewki of Eritrea are expected to attend. The latter expressed his hearty contempt for the organisation during his maiden speech there less than a year after Eritrean independence.

Ethiopian pride and political necessity dictates Zalambessa be retaken. But as Mengistu's forces discovered in the Eighties, the cost of an offensive against Eritrean gunners with an eagle's view of

their enemy is likely to be enormous.

"We could stay here a hundred years," boasted a young Eritrean officer. An older, more senior, commander rolled his one eye to the sky, shook his head, and wandered off to inspect a tank unit. For him war had lost its edge of adventure and glamour.

His job now was to supervise the building of secondary and tertiary lines of defence for his men. A bulldozer gouged what fertile soil there was into ramparts. Beyond them infantry "shell scrapes", protected by small rock walls, have already been spread far and wide across a plain behind the trenches and gun emplacements.

As the one-eyed commander said: "We want to be sure that if we decide to withdraw, the Ethiopians won't be able to stab us in the back."

What increases the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke?

SEE PAGE 14

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Players

Striking French games with fo

Billie-Jo dea scene 'made I forget eviden

السنة من الالهي

Players get the blues over Hoddle's beige

England coach insists on 'second division' colour for the squad's official suits, says Adrian Lee

ENGLAND'S World Cup squad is dull, lacking in flair and won't measure up to the Italians.

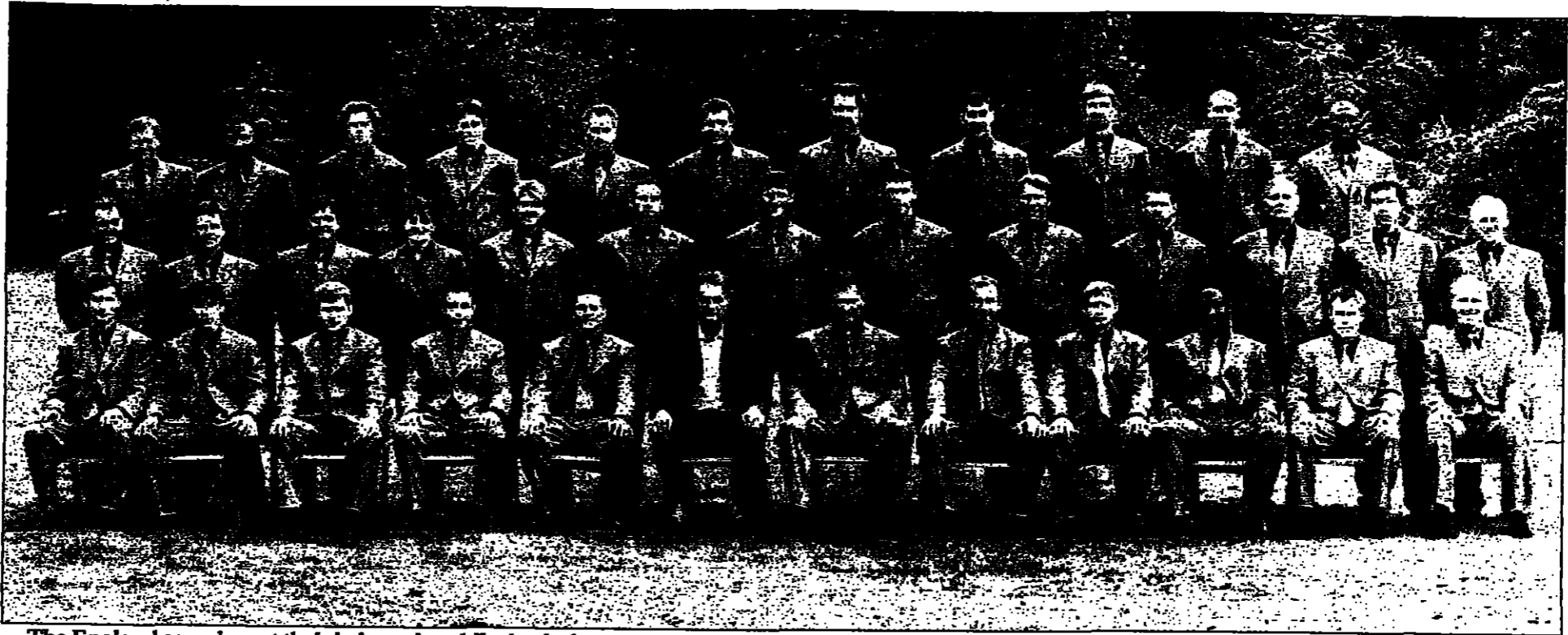
Glenn Hoddle's insistence on beige suits is also causing some unrest in the dressing room after the England coach overruled several players who preferred the designer Paul Smith's own first choice of navy blue.

But, as Paul Gascoigne discovered, Hoddle is his own man. Over lunch with Smith, who also designed the navy suits worn by the Euro 96 team, Hoddle made it quite clear that nothing but beige would do.

"I suggested a blue but he was adamant he wanted beige and we worked around that," Smith said. "He wanted light-weight, light colour suits because it is a summer tournament, and that was that."

The single breasted, three button suits are based on designs from the Paul Smith London collection, which retail for about £600. To complete their France 98 wardrobe, the players will wear deep blue shirts, and blue and silver silk ties with a three lions motif. The blue suede shoes are by Cheaney of Northamptonshire, who are also supplying brown brogues for the players. For less formal occasions they have been kitted out with navy linen shorts and sky blue, short sleeved shirts.

Smith said the actual colour was taupe - slightly darker



The England squad sport their beige suits while the designer, Paul Smith, sticks to navy blue. Below, how the squad was turned out for the 1970 World Cup

than beige. The designer said he was aware of the disastrous pale Armani suits worn by the Liverpool team for the 1996 FA Cup Final: fashion commentators likened the players to ice cream salesmen.

Smith said he and the players had had initial misgivings about the suits, made from a mix of viscose and linen, but "they looked great in the sunshine". Alan Shearer was particularly positive. Smith said the sunbats sported by the England team after their training session in Spain complemented the outfit.

Hoddle had taken a keen interest, in marked contrast to his predecessor. "Terry Venables just said, 'Yeah, give me some suits,'" said Mr Smith, who confessed to being surprised. "I don't think he

[Hoddle] is well known for his dress sense."

A spokesman for the Football Association said: "We are delighted with what we have got. We did take professional advice."

Catherine Hayward, fashion writer at GQ magazine, said she could not fault the design but Hoddle's choice of colour was strictly second division. "Beige is a bit safe and sensible, but perhaps that's what he was looking for. Italians or Brazilians might look good, but Englishmen wearing beige can look a bit pasty. I think it is a mistake, they should have gone for a dark colour."

On the plus side, Hoddle's decision to dump Gascoigne was beginning to make sense. "Another problem with beige is that it's not very slimming,"

Ms Hayward said. "On a man who is not tall and slender it can be a big mistake."

The England team was also involved in a debate over its choice of indigo during Euro 96: to most people it looked grey. David Seaman, the goalkeeper, had a multi-coloured top which, an FA official admitted, made him look like a tube of Refreshers.

Today, the England squad flies from Heathrow to its French base near the elegant seaside resort of La Baule, Brittany. At Le Col Vert restaurant, near the team's hotel, Guy Bovyn was hoisting the English flag. "I would be honoured if the English team dined here," he said. "It is a great privilege for our town to be chosen."

World Cup, pages 50, 51, 56

Why pick a shade that is beyond the pale?

BY GRACE BRADBERRY
STYLE EDITOR

WHAT is it about beige that incites people to rage? And why, oh why, does Glenn Hoddle like it?

Officially there is no friction between the designer Paul Smith, who wanted the squad to wear blue, and Hoddle, who demanded beige. But footballers and fashion have always been an explosive and comic combination - David Beckham's sarong being just one more proof that these men need to be told not only what time to leave the night-club, but what to wear while they're there.

Sartorially, they're an absolute shower and you might think designers would back off altogether. Armani has not got involved since he dressed Liverpool's 1996 FA Cup Final side in very pale beige. Fans knew it was all over when they saw those suits.

The trouble with beige is that it's barely a real colour. It's one of those shades that was invented by Conran or Armani, or someone, and became deeply cool then horribly naff in the space of a decade. The proof of this is that it has been renamed. Fashion folk now call it stone, or sand, or some other Saharan kind of word. Smith is calling it taupe.

One other point is probably troubling the England players: they don't wear beige in Tarantino films. They wear moody, conspiratorial colours - like dark blue. Pale is not interesting. Pale is for wimps.



Striking French pilots play games with football fans

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WORLD Cup ticket-holders have become pawns in France's crippling airline strike, with striking Air France pilots offering to "rescue" stranded foreign supporters by manning special flights and bosses responding that such a plan would be impractical and possibly illegal.

As the strike went into its second week, the largest pilots' union said its members were willing to work unpaid to ensure that football supporters reached the tournament, while simultaneously insisting that strikers would "see this conflict through to the end".

"We will suggest to Air France that it lay on special flights. Access to these flights will be reserved for people

who have got a ticket to the matches. These planes will be flown by the striking pilots who will work for free," Christian Paris, spokesman for the SNPL union, said.

Air France said: "We cannot discriminate between customers on the basis of whether they have a World Cup ticket or not and a pilot on strike cannot fly." Striking pilots have no insurance cover.

The company added that if some pilots agreed to suspend the strike then "we could envisage opening flights to destinations where there are difficulties".

The offer to lay on flights for ticket-holders has opened up divisions between the striking unions. The three smaller

pilots' unions have all opposed the plan. Unions representing other Air France workers have accused the SNPL of "trying to seize power".

The action by pilots, who are striking over management plans to cut their salaries in exchange for share options, now seems certain to cause serious problems during the tournament.

Jean-Claude Gaudin, Mayor of Marseilles where England will play Tunisia next Monday, compared the pilots' strike "to an act of desertion in time of war". "The Government must not give in when faced with an attempt at collective suicide," he said.

Photograph, page 16

Billie-Jo death scene 'made PC forget evidence'

BY JOANNA BALE

THE first police officer on the scene after the murder of Billie-Jo Jenkins was so "shocked and shaken" that he forgot to record vital evidence in his notebook, a court heard yesterday.

PC Darren Bruce, who found the 13-year-old dead on the patio of her home in Hastings, added: "The original call was someone had found their daughter who had had a fall. It was the last thing you expected to find."

A statement was also read out from Dr Zbigniew Ludwig, a police surgeon, which said: "I have served 26 years and this was, without doubt, the saddest and most brutal murder I have ever attended."

Sion Jenkins, who denies killing his foster daughter with an 18-inch metal tent peg, was granted permission to leave the court by Mr Justice Gage, while a video recording of the murder scene was shown to the jury. Billie-Jo's father, Bill Jenkins, left the public gallery, but her mother, Debbie Jenkins, stayed and was forced to flee halfway through the recording.

PC Bruce told Lewes Crown Court that he was so affected by the murder, he forgot to record in his notebook a conversation with Mr Jenkins three days later, explaining: "It was a error on my part because I was very shaken up by the incident."

The constable described

how he arrived at the house to be met by Mr Jenkins, who told him that he had been out with his daughters Lottie and Annie to buy white spirit and had arrived back to find Billie-Jo lying next to some French doors she had been painting.

PC Bruce said Mr Jenkins appeared "stunned" when told that Billie-Jo was dead. He then asked Mr Jenkins about the events leading up to her death and it was this conversation that he forgot to record until three days later. He said Mr Jenkins, 40, had told him that he had waited in the car while Lottie dropped off her clarinet, before driving off with her and Annie to buy white spirit.

The court has been told that Mr Jenkins later admitted to having gone inside the house after collecting Lottie.

The trial continues.



Billie-Jo Jenkins: found lying dead on the patio

Bell ringer played on after falling from grace

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A DIMINUTIVE bell-ringer continued to conduct her team through two weddings after breaking a leg falling off a platform that she needed to reach the ropes.

One couple were rung out of Romsey Abbey, and a bride was welcomed in by the bells 30 minutes later as Rosemary Oakeshott, 65, lay conducting from the floor.

A fire crew, who had struggled to find a way of getting her out because the stairs in the 336-year-old abbey were too narrow for a stretcher, were finally able to remove her through a window in the bell tower. A crowd of onlookers, including wedding guests, burst into applause when Mrs Oakeshott, from Awbridge, near Romsey, Hampshire, was lowered to the ground.

The vicar of the abbey, the Rev Alan Green, left the church between marriage services on Saturday to check on her condition. Mrs Oakeshott was taken to Southampton General Hospital, where she is said to be comfortable.

Despite being in pain, Mrs Oakeshott had earlier told her six-strong team: "Do carry on playing". She was injured when she leaned forward to check the clock before beginning the wedding peal, and fell off an 18in platform she used to reach the bell ropes.

A fire service spokesman said yesterday: "She never stopped talking and encouraging the bell ringers."



CHOREOGRAPHER GERALD FITZGERALD CO-ORDINATES



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Hauliers threaten to step up blockades

Motorways at standstill in protest at fuel cost, writes Arthur Leathley

THE threat of French-style lorry blockades on British roads loomed last night after hauliers promised to step up protest action that brought some motorways to a standstill yesterday.

Tailbacks of up to eight miles were reported on stretches of two of Britain's busiest motorways as 300 lorry drivers staged a "rolling blockade", driving slowly to disrupt traffic. The protests caused widespread congestion on the M25 and the M6 near Birmingham. Peak-hour traffic was delayed by lorries driving in two lanes at speeds as low as 5mph.

The protests were caused by an action group campaigning against the high cost of diesel in Britain and legal changes that will allow overseas hauliers to work in this country without permits. The leader of the TransAction protest group said last night that further action might involve full-scale roadblocks of the type that have caused havoc on French roads and at ports.

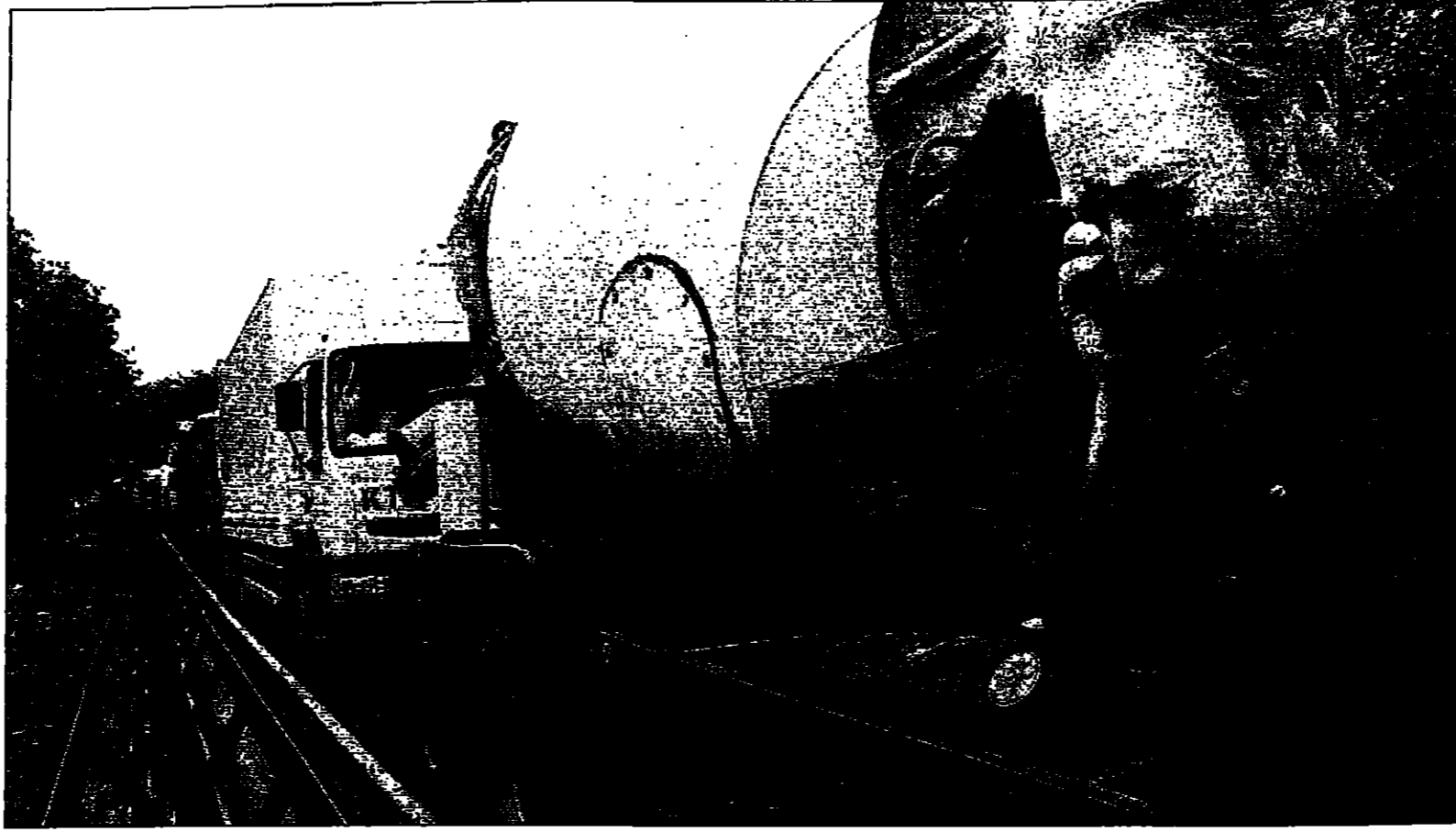
Peter Knight, a Kent haulier, said: "We want to get the message across to the Government that thousands of jobs are going to be lost because we are at a disadvantage against foreign companies."

The TransAction group has only about 45 core members, small operators who have become disenchanted with their trade organisations. They claim that the Road Haulage Association and Freight Transport Association have failed to press for lower diesel charges.

British diesel costs about 66.5p a litre, compared with 45.4p in France, and 35p in Luxembourg. The drivers claim that international hauliers can save £200 by filling up in mainland Europe, enabling them to take work in Britain with a tank of fuel to let them drive up to 1,500 miles.

They are also angry at plans to remove from July 1 the need for a cabotage permit, which overseas hauliers currently require to work in Britain.

Mr Knight, of Les Knight Transport, said: "The French have shown what can be done



Roads to nowhere. Jim Blanchard, one of the protesting lorry drivers, speaks to another as lorries block a route in Central London yesterday

by taking action. We don't like doing this, but I have to protect my business."

A spokesman for the Road Haulage Association said: "Although we agree totally with the hauliers, we do not think this sort of action will win them any sympathy from the public or politicians."

Lorry drivers in the Midlands also took their protest on to the A38(M) — the main route into Birmingham city centre. An estimated 130 lorries blocked two of the three M6 lanes in both directions from Staffordshire in the north and Warwickshire in the south.

Car drivers were forced to pass in the outside lane. Motorists using alternative routes also found minor roads congested as early-morning workers tried to beat the blockade. Some 40 police officers, many on motorcycles, travelled with the drivers to reduce disruption.

A convoy of about 50 lorries arrived in London from Kent as part of the protest, holding up traffic on the A2. They drove through Victoria, Park Lane and Marble Arch, causing delays. Later the lorries parked in bus and coach lanes in Park Lane in Central London. Other lorries staged a rolling blockade on the M25 in Essex and Hertfordshire.

London Underground next week, called in protest at Government plans to allow the private sector to run part of the Tube system.

The union claims that some workers will lose £40 a week and work more unsocial hours under restructuring proposals. Its move surprised the nine railway maintenance companies and Railtrack, the track and signalling company, which thought that they were nearing agreement.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, said that

Rail workers prepare to strike

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of rail workers are to strike for 11 days this month in an industrial dispute that threatens to disrupt train services across the country.

Members of the Rail Maritime and Transport union at nine engineering companies will stop work for four days from June 19, and for seven days from June 29. The strikes by maintenance workers will follow a 48-hour strike by the same union on

there would be an immediate impact on services, which would get "progressively worse" as the dispute continued. "The companies are asking far too much for too little compensation," he said. "RMT is determined that privatisation is not going to mean exploitation."

A Railtrack spokesman said: "Contingency plans are in hand, and although in the first instance it is expected that the impact will be minimal, it is difficult to predict the effects".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy, 6, dies after falling on to branch

A boy was impaled on a branch when he fell while climbing a tree with friends near his home. A villager at Llandymog, North Wales, held him while another man who had been driving past sawed through the branch. Rhys Jones, 6, died from severe internal injuries on the way to hospital.

Fair death award

The father of a nine-year-old boy killed on a fairground water chute was awarded £318,000 compensation at the High Court in Cardiff. Timothy Morgan died at Coney Beach funfair in Porthcawl, South Wales, in 1994.

Theft charge

A 22-year-old man from Preston has been charged in connection with the theft of equipment from a police canteen kitchen in Old Trafford, Manchester. He will appear at Trafford Magistrates' Court on July 17.

Yachtsman lost

Stephen Bestford, 30, is feared drowned in Chichester harbour after his rowing boat capsized as he and a friend returned to their yacht from a pub. Neither wore a lifejacket. A fisherman saved the friend and a dog.

Moth invasion

Tending in Essex has been plagued by swarms of browntail moths, which shed thousands of tiny hairs covered in poison. Residents have complained of rashes and blisters after coming into contact with the hairs.

Death decision

No criminal prosecution will be brought over the death of a 75-year-old woman on a hot air balloon that crashed into power lines and caught fire near the Humber Bridge last July. The 11 other passengers and pilot were badly hurt.

David Rollason

We have been asked to make it clear that David Rollason of Plymouth, who suffered a fatal heart attack in a police car after agreeing to be breathalysed for a minor traffic offence (report, March 18), tested negative.

Woman murdered as she waited for flight

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



Máire Cronin: may have left airport for fresh air

A SECRETARY who was battered to death near Athens airport may have left the terminal to break the tedium of waiting for her flight home to London, Greek police said yesterday.

The body of Irish-born Máire Cronin, 34, was found under bushes on a golf course. Police believe that she may have been assaulted when she left the terminal with the aim of stretching her legs and getting some fresh air, but they have not ruled out the possibility that she was murdered by someone who accompanied her to the airport.

Ms Cronin, a personal assistant to the

managing director of a London medical insurance company, lived in Putney, southwest London. She was alone on a week-long break to Spetsai, an island about 50 miles southwest of Athens, where she was a regular visitor. Ms Cronin left her hotel on the island on Friday May 29 to return to London in time for work on Monday. She had several hours to wait in Athens airport before her early morning flight on Saturday.

Her body was found at 7am by a man walking his dog. She was fully clothed and had suffered a single blow to the head. Ms Cronin's passport had been stolen, making it difficult for Greek police to identify her. Her London company,

concerned when she failed to turn up for work, contacted her family in Dublin. Scotland Yard made inquiries through Interpol and discovered that Ms Cronin had not taken her flight out of Greece. Greek police then made the connection with the unidentified body found on the golf course.

Her brothers, Patrick and Michael, flew to Athens at the weekend to identify the body. They are expected to return to the family home in the Dublin suburb of Mount Merrion at the end of the week.

Their parents, Denis and Lil, returned from a holiday in Sweden when they learned the news. They were being comforted yesterday by their two other children, Ellis and Donnacha.

Angry bull kills water board man

A WATER BOARD official was gored to death yesterday by a bull that broke through a fence (Gillian Harris writes).

Wilson Cowan, 56, was sampling water from a mains in a street in Pettinain, Strathclyde, when an Ayrshire bull in a nearby field grew agitated and began to bellow.

The animal charged through the wire fence and pinned him against his van. It gored him in the head and body, and tossed him into the

middle of the lane. Road builders working near by tried to distract the bull by throwing stones, but by the time they reached Mr Cowan, an official with the West of Scotland water board, he was already dead.

The bull was later captured by its owner, William Adamson, of Swaithe Farm. It will be put down. Last night Strathclyde Police confirmed that a report had been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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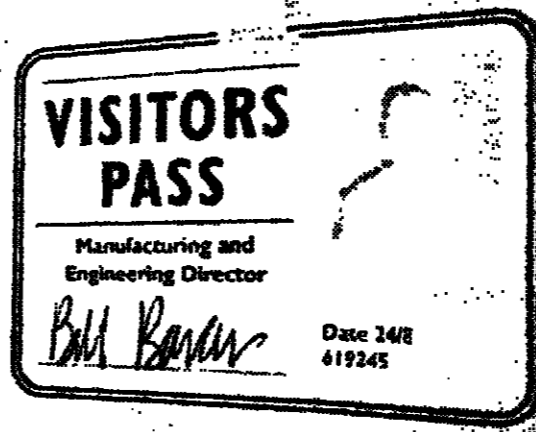
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Chorus approval Britons v on US sta

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LONDON

Chorus of approval as Britons win on US stage

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MUSICALS set in pre-war Germany and cartoon Africa brought Britain a haul of prizes in the Broadway equivalent of the Oscars.

Britons Natasha Richardson and Alan Cumming, the stars of *Cabaret*, won the Tony awards for the best leading actress and actor in a musical, while the stage version of *The Lion King* — its music written by Sir Elton John and Sir Tim Rice — won the award for the best musical.

Cabaret, directed by the Londoner Sam Mendes, also took the award for the best revival of a musical, as well as the prize for best featured actor in a musical, for Ron Rifkin.

However the highlight of this year's Tonys was the first-ever award to women of the top prizes for direction. Garry Hynes and Julie Taymor won the awards for the best direction of a play and musical respectively, for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *The Lion King*.

Ms Richardson plays Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, a role made famous by Liza Minnelli in the 1970 film

directed by Bob Fosse. She was always a front runner for the best actress in a musical award after critics at the opening night in March likened her performance to that of Minnelli. One critic even compared her with Laurence Olivier.

Receiving her award at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall on Sunday night, Ms Richardson said that taking on the performance — in which she sang on stage for the first time — was "the most terrifying journey" of her life. Writing in the *New York Times* in March, the theatre critic Ben Brantley said: "When Natasha Richardson performs the title number of *Cabaret*... you'll probably find yourself grinning in a way you seldom do at musicals these days. For what Ms Richardson does is reclaim and reinvent a showbiz anthem that is as familiar as Hamlet's soliloquy."

Mr Cumming's success has been more low-key. The 33-year-old Scot, who plays the cheerfully leering MC at the Kit-Kat Klub, has been described as "a visitor dazzled



Marie Mullen, Alan Cumming and Natasha Richardson celebrate their Tony awards in New York with Anthony LaPaglia, best actor in a play

Reject wins four awards and a first

BY AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A THEATRE company from the West of Ireland won four Tony awards for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, a play rejected 22 times by British theatres and television.

Three actors and the director, Garry Hynes, were presented with awards in New York on Sunday night. It is the first time that a woman director has received the best director title at the awards. Ms Hynes, who is now directing

Arthur Miller's *Mr Peter's Connections* on Broadway, said that she was "babbergasted" that she and her play triumphed in four of the six categories for which it received nominations. "To get so many just felt extraordinary and I don't think any of us has taken it in yet," she told RTE radio yesterday.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane, about a mother's possessive hold over her daughter, is part of the Leenane Trilogy written by Martin McDonagh, a London-based writer of Irish extraction. He sent the plays off to dozens of English theatres

and television companies, including the BBC, before trying Ms Hynes, whose Druid theatre company in Galway is renowned for nourishing young talent.

Marie Mullen, who plays the daughter in the play, received the best actress award; Tom Murphy, who plays her beleaguered suitor, won best featured actor; and Anna Manahan, who plays the mother, won the best featured actress award. She thanked the people of Ireland "who were lighting candles for me during the week... they'll be lighting bonfires tonight".

1998 WINNERS

- Play: *Art* by Yasmina Reza
- Musical: *The Lion King*
- Book of a musical: Terrence McNally, *Ragtime*
- Original score: Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, *Ragtime*
- Revival/play: *A View from the Bridge*
- Revival/musical: *Cabaret*
- Actor/play: Anthony LaPaglia, *A View from the Bridge*
- Actress/play: Marie Mullen, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*
- Actor/musical: Alan Cumming, *Cabaret*
- Actress/musical: Natasha Richardson, *Cabaret*
- Featured actor/play: Tom Murphy, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*
- Featured actress/play: Anna Manahan, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*
- Featured actor/musical: Ron Rifkin, *Cabaret*
- Featured actress/musical: Audra McDonald, *Ragtime*
- Director/play: Garry Hynes, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*
- Director/musical: Julie Taymor, *The Lion King*
- Scenic design: Richard Hudson, *The Lion King*
- Costume design: Julie Taymor, *The Lion King*
- Lighting design: Donald Holder, *The Lion King*
- Choreography: Garth Fagan, *The Lion King*
- Orchestrations: William David Brohn, *Ragtime*

Male model winked at girl, 16, tribunal told

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AN ARTIST'S model who claims that a college sexually discriminated against him winked at a 16-year-old girl student while posing naked for a class, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Di Harper, programme leader in art and design at Northampton College, said that was one of the examples of behaviour by George Bond, 54, that made teachers dissatisfied with him. Mrs Harper said the reluctance of some members of staff to use Mr Bond in some circumstances had nothing to do with sex but with his personality.

She said staff were also concerned because Mr Bond had appeared in erotic films and in a Channel 4 documentary about the making of a pornographic film. College officials had felt that it was not appropriate to allow a model who had taken part in such activities to pose naked

before 16-year-old A-level pupils.

"One particular student had a large gap in her drawing where the genitals should have been," Mrs Harper said. "When I asked her about it she said, 'Well, he kept winking at me.'"

The tribunal has been told that Mr Bond was in the habit of arguing with staff about the kinds of poses he should take up. Mrs Harper said on one occasion he decided to take up a pose that left his "bottom up in the air". She added: "Some students had a rather unfortunate viewpoint."

She added: "This has got nothing to do with sex. If we had a stropky female model, it would make no difference."

Mr Bond admitted that he had an "in your face" attitude in class. But there was no reason why he should not get his fair share of work. He denied that he winked at

students. He said he was short-sighted and that the girl who complained had misunderstood what he was doing. "I don't wear glasses so as not to get eye contact with females," Mr Bond said. "The last thing a male model who is nude needs is any sort of eye contact with females."

Mr Bond alleges that the college unfairly opted for women models on an overwhelming number of occasions, in breach of its equal opportunities policy. The college denies that, maintaining that four times as many women as men applied to be models and that the work was fairly distributed.

Art teachers have told the college that in some circumstances they preferred to use women as models because the female body was more flexible and absorbed light better. The tribunal reserved judgment to a later date.

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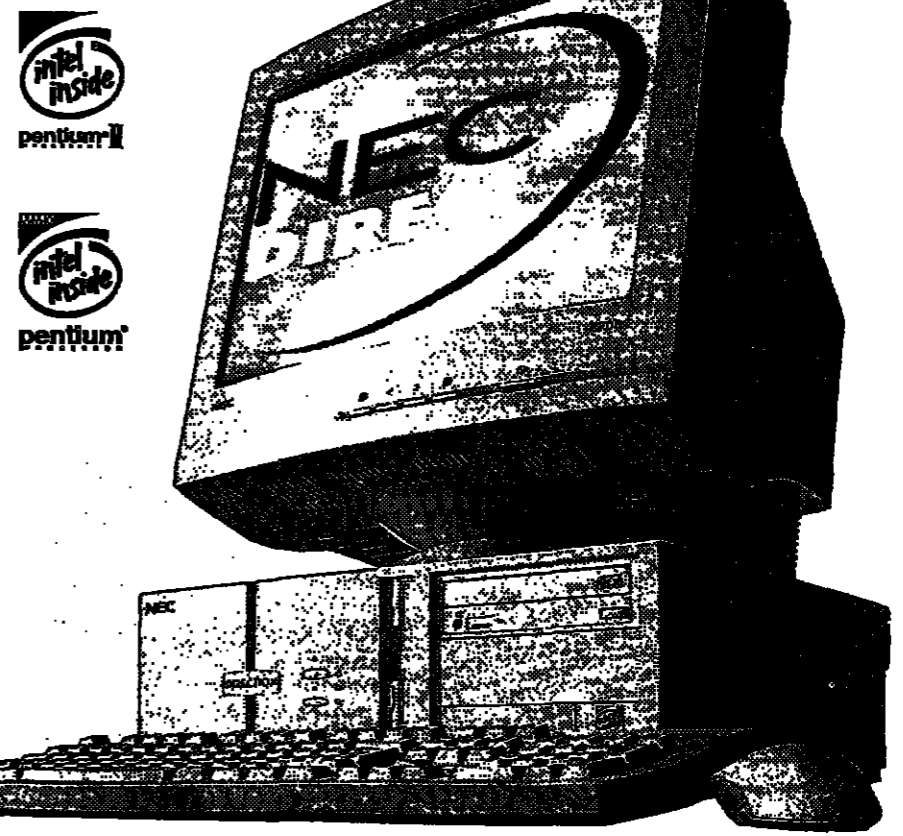
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Court battle over looted Old Master

A DUTCH Old Master looted from a German art gallery in the final days of the Second World War is being reclaimed by Germany.

The Holy Family with Saints John and Elizabeth and Angels by Joachim Wtewael, worth £700,000, was stolen from a gallery in the east German province of Thuringia during the Red Army advances in 1945. Yesterday Germany began an action at the High Court in London to recover the picture, which re-surfaced in Moscow in the mid-1980s.

Alexander Layton, QC, for the German authorities, said the hearing would be seen as a test case by the art world. "There are many thousands of works of art known to exist before this century's wars which remain hidden. The outcome of this case may have a significant bearing on the extent to which those who now hold these lost works will be able to sell them for their own profit, without fear of claims by the rightful owner."

The disputed masterpiece — painted on copper in 1603 and

A 1603 masterpiece was taken from a gallery during the final days of the Second World War. Now Germany wants it back, reports Peter Foster

measuring just eight inches by six — was bought by Cobert Finance SA, a Panamanian-registered company, in 1989. It was put up for sale at Sotheby's in April 1992 but withdrawn when doubts were raised over its provenance.

The picture has remained in Sotheby's safekeeping pending the outcome of the ownership dispute between the Federal Republic of Germany, the city of Gotha where the picture was housed, and Cobert.

Mr Layton said the story of the painting read like an episode from a detective novel. Its pre-war history is not in dispute. From 1826 it was owned by the dukes of Faxe-Coburg-Gotha until being transferred into the Foundation for Art and Science set up

by the family in 1928. During the Second World War the painting is believed to have been placed in storage at a neighbouring castle in what became the German Democratic Republic or the former East Germany.

It is at this point that accounts of its provenance diverge.

Cobert claims that the picture was given by an unknown donor to Adolf Kozlenkov, a Latvian colonel in the Russian Army. He is said to have held on to the picture until his divorce in 1955 when he gave it to a neighbouring family. After his death in March 1982 it was apparently returned to Kozlenkov's son Alexander, who took it to Moscow in 1985. There he sold it to a Mr Sunguza who after three years

sold it on to a Mrs Breslav, who brought it to London and offered it for sale at Sotheby's in 1988. The following year she is said to have sold it to Cobert Finance, which left it with Sotheby's for sale.

Mr Layton, however, said that Russian military records showed no trace of a Latvian colonel named Kozlenkov. It was more probable that the painting was stolen by Russian soldiers and taken to the former Soviet Union, he said, where it remained until re-surfacing on the international art market in 1986. He also alleged that the painting was smuggled into Berlin with the help of the wife of the Tobagan ambassador.

Whatever the truth, Mr Layton said, the German authorities wanted the court to declare them the lawful owner and grant an injunction stopping anyone else from selling the painting.

Alternatively the Germans are asking for financial compensation.

The hearing, which is expected to last three weeks, continues.



A detail of Joachim Wtewael's disputed masterpiece which dates from 1603

Pill with link to Dome symbol is dropped

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A HEART drug was withdrawn yesterday after evidence that it can cause potentially serious damage when taken with other drugs.

The side-effects of Posicor, which include an unusual change in heart rhythm, and muscle injury, occur when it is taken at the same time as beta-blockers or statins, used to reduce cholesterol levels.

Posicor, launched in mid-1997 by Roche for the treatment of angina and high blood pressure, shares a symbol similar to the Millennium Dome's Boadicea. It was advertised using three semi-naked male figures created by the same artist, Mark Reddy. Like Boadicea, the figures have long legs, broad shoulders and tiny heads.

John Drake, medical group manager at Roche Products at Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, said that the drug was taken by 800,000 people worldwide, 3,000 of them in Britain. The company had had reports of 43 deaths of people taking the drug, but in a group that large suffering from serious heart conditions, that was not surprising.

In only one case, Dr Drake said, was it impossible to exclude the possibility that drug interactions involving Posicor might have been a cause of death.

Roche says that in principle these effects could have been avoided by appropriate labelling but believed that in this case it would be too complex for doctors and patients to understand. Patients taking Posicor should not simply discontinue but should consult their doctors about alternatives.



Dome woman shared drug family likeness

Treasure seeker to cash in on 'junk' find

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRIAN SABLES struck lucky the first time he used his second-hand metal detector but it was 18 months before he realised just how lucky.

He assumed that the small grubby coin that he unearthed was worthless and "threw it in a drawer with some junk" at his home in Sellow, South Yorkshire. Now he has learnt that it was made by the Vikings and is the only one of its type to be found in Britain.

The base silver coin, which experts believe could have been brought to Britain in 1066 by the Norwegian King Harald Hardrada's army, is expected to fetch up to £8,000 at auction on Friday.

Mr Sables, a decorator and father of four, thought the metal detector was faulty when it began bleeping on his first outing. Although he was unimpressed with his find, curiosity got the better of him and he eventually decided to have it examined. "I was stunned when they said it was a rare Viking penny," he said. "Now I'm hooked and intend to buy a state-of-the-art metal detector."

The coin will be sold by the London specialists Dix, Noonan and Webb.



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Police angered after murder case dropped

Prosecution lawyers say their own gun expert had cast doubts on Crown claims, reports Tim Jones

THE wife and stepdaughter of a millionaire businessman shot dead outside his home were cleared of his murder yesterday amid protests at a last-minute decision to drop the case against them.

As Linda Watson, 42, and her stepdaughter, Amanda London-Williams, 24, were formally acquitted of the murder of Richard Watson, police officers in the case were planning to meet the Crown Prosecution Service to determine why their 18-month investigation had been abandoned. An Old Bailey judge was told that a senior police officer was appalled by the decision.

Mrs Watson, 42, a former beauty queen, and her stepdaughter were to have pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mr Watson, 55, in December, 1996. He was shot in the driveway of his £400,000 home at East Grinstead, West Sussex.

A legal battle is expected to take place over Mr Watson's estate. Although he had not made a will, Mr Watson, who had four children by two previous wives, had intended

that 51 per cent of his business should go to his son, Julian.

A reconstruction of the crime carried out last Friday convinced the CPS that circumstantial evidence could not be considered strong enough to secure a conviction. Police, who took no part in that decision, and the defence teams were not told until 6pm on Friday that the prosecution would offer no evidence.

The crux of the prosecution case was that Mr Watson, who ran Trafalgar Computers, was shot twice from close range in the neck and shoulders, as he walked into the house, by a gunman waiting on the balcony. It would not have been possible to enter the balcony without the occupants' knowledge.

After studying a report from one of the prosecution's own ballistic experts, which said that it was improbable the second shot could have been fired from the balcony, it was decided to abandon the case.

Julian Bevan, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Detective Inspector Nick Siggs, one of the senior officers



Richard Watson: shot from his house balcony

in the case, strongly disagreed with the decision and had told him he was appalled by it. Detective Superintendent Tim Godwin of Sussex Police said officers had been disappointed they were not party to the decision and would be meeting the CPS to discuss the matter.

John Coffey, QC, representing Mrs Watson, said: "This case emphasises just how vital it is that decisions are taken independently by lawyers of experience and judgment, rather than by those responsible for gathering evidence who may be too close to the investigation to exercise the necessary required degree of objectivity."

There was no will under which Mrs Watson could have

benefited from the estate, valued at more than £690,000, nor was there an insurance policy on Mr Watson's life. Mr Coffey said. The house would not be wholly owned by his widow, because of complications, and his stepdaughter had no claim to his estate.

Mr Bevan had told the court that Mrs Watson had not had a physical relationship with her husband for eight years and considered herself to be more of a housekeeper than a wife. She was unhappy that he did not treat her as an equal in their partnership and had at one time discussed with a solicitor the possibility of leaving him.

However, he said, Mrs Watson was well provided for and they appeared to be a happy couple. "There would not have been any witness to say they were not happy or that she was an unhappy woman."

Mr Bevan added: "It would have been our case that an examination of the injuries and the position at which he fell indicated the person who shot him was positioned on the balcony of the house when the shots were fired."

"If the gunman was on the balcony, there is no way that the gunman would not have been present without the consent or instigation of the defendants. They were in the



Amanda London-Williams and Linda Watson, right, leaving the Old Bailey after being cleared yesterday

house at the time, just the two of them.

"If the gunman was not on that balcony, there is not sufficient evidence that the prosecution could put forward which linked this killing to either defendant."

After the case, Mrs Watson's solicitor, Chris Lewis,

said: "She is extremely relieved that the allegation will be pursued no further. But this is not a cause for celebration but for sadness, because her husband's murderer is still at large. She has not been given the opportunity to mourn his loss and has always maintained her innocence."

The two women were hugged and kissed by relatives as they left court with reporters from a national newspaper.

Detective Superintendent Godwin said that the case had never been closed because police had always sought another person in connection with the murder.

Three weeks before his death, Mr Watson had been attacked and robbed by two masked men with a stun gun. A £50,000 reward, £40,000 of which has been raised by the two women and other family members, has been offered for information leading to a conviction.

Docklands bomb and race hoax 'shared same code'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE coded warning given by the IRA for the Docklands bomb was also used for the hoax that delayed the 1997 Grand National, a jury was told yesterday.

John Bevan, QC, opening the retrial of a Northern Ireland man accused of playing a central part in delivering the South Quay lorry bomb, told Woolwich Crown Court that police could always rely on the IRA's coded warnings.

A year after the South Quay bomb ended an 18-month ceasefire, killing two men and causing damage estimated at

£150 million, the same code was used to halt the Aintree race. James McCardle, 30, from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, denies conspiracy to cause explosions and the murder of the two men who died in the blast - Inam Bashir, 29, a newsagent, and John Jeffries, 31, his assistant.

Mr Bevan said that the lorry bomb in February 1996 halted a ceasefire that followed a long IRA campaign in Northern Ireland and the mainland. The bomb had been a major IRA operation: a flatbed lorry was converted into a car

transporter, then loaded with more than a tonne of explosive. Mr McCardle had played a central role in the delivery of the vehicle from Northern Ireland to Carlisle, he said.

There was a series of warnings between 5.30pm and 5.45pm, and the bomb exploded at 6.59pm. Mr Bevan said that, although the warnings had related to South Quay's station on the Dockland Light Railway system, one had been misheard as only South Quay and police had wasted precious time.

The case continues.

'Posse' who stole fast cars are sentenced

By Helen Johnstone

A GANG who stole 60 high-performance cars from driveways and golf clubs and then filmed themselves performing dangerous stunts received sentences of between 20 months and four years yesterday.

The eight men, aged between 18 and 30, called themselves the Acocks Green Posse after the area of Birmingham from which most of them came. They stole cars worth a total of £800,000 during an 18-month period and sped around Acocks Green, joyriding to cheers from crowds of onlookers and frequently videotaping their antics.

One member, Jason Powell, now 18 but who was 15 when he joined the gang, has lost a

contract with Birmingham City Football Club as a result.

The gang followed drivers of expensive cars and confronted them in their driveways. Victims were threatened before having their keys wrestled off them and their cars driven off. Coventry Crown Court was told. As their bravado increased, the gang broke into homes to steal car keys while the owners slept.

Peter Cooke, for the prosecution, said the gang's philosophy "was to encourage the activities, the parading, the wheelspinning, the photographing and the videoing".

There were photographs of the smiling criminals as they sat inside stolen cars, with the



The Acocks Green Posse filmed its members in action

letters AGP often inscribed over the numberplate.

Defence barristers said they were encouraged by a youthful love affair with stealing cars. The gang admitted con-

spiracy to steal cars and conspiracy to burglar.

Jamie Lambie, 21, the ringleader, was sentenced to four years' jail; Warren Siblebottom, 21, Ian McNally, 22,

and James Yeomans, 30, to 20 months' jail; Noel Riley, 18, Jason Powell, 18, and Jason Daniels, 18, to 2½ years in a young offender institution; Craig Gaughan, 18, to two years in a young offender institution.

Detective Inspector Paul Owen of West Midlands Police, who said it took six months' work by 60 officers to link crimes, said: "I accept the sentences but the people whose houses were broken into, who were terrorised and who had their cars stolen, will be aware these defendants will be back on the streets before very long."

"They were arrogant and brazen and it was just luck and good policing that prevented people being killed."

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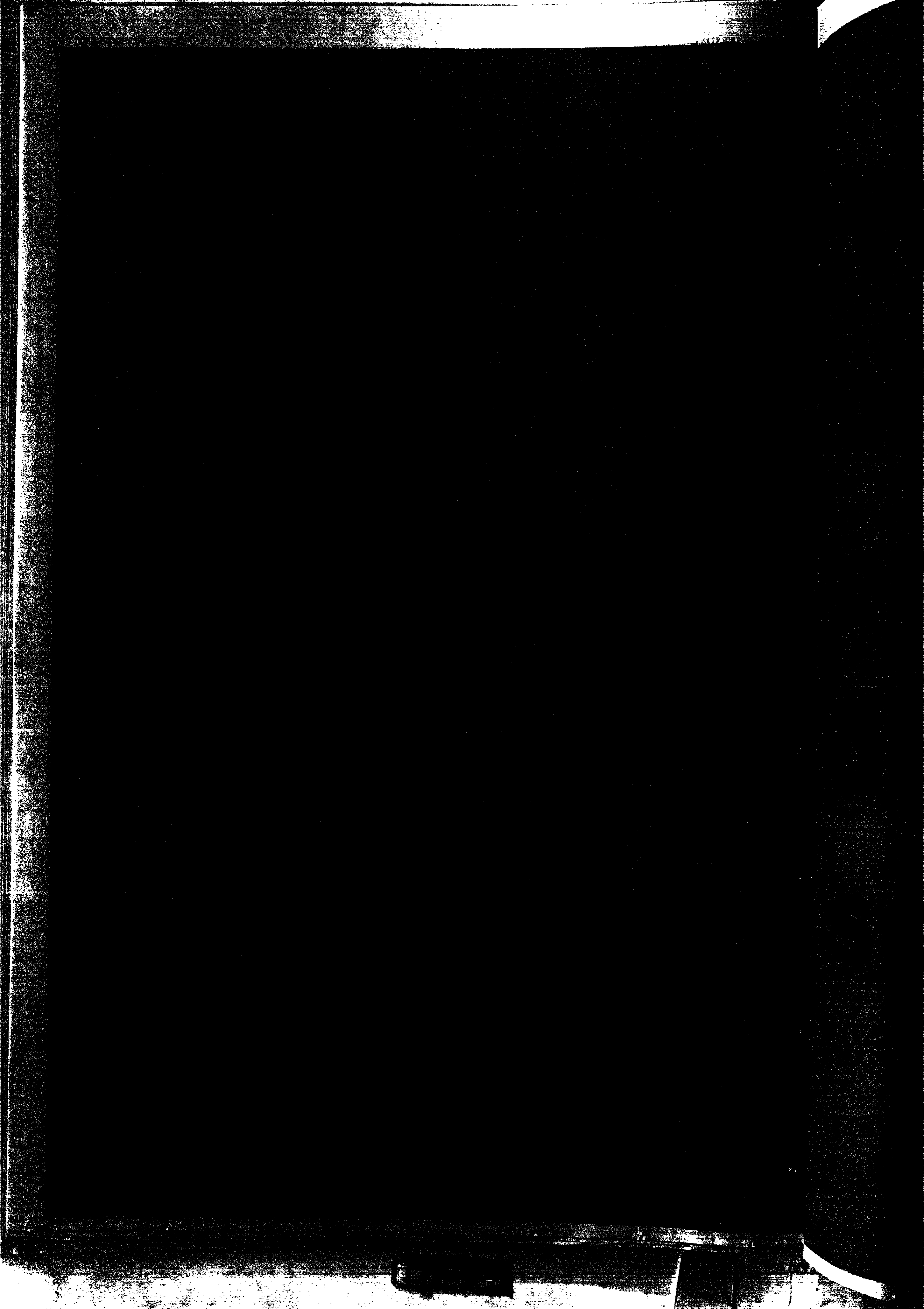
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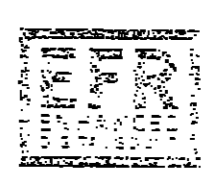


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Divorcees get rights to husband's pension

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND CAROLINE MERRELL

WOMEN who have devoted years of their lives to the traditional roles of homemaker and mother will be able to claim a fair share of their husband's pension on divorce, under new legislation unveiled yesterday.

The plan, which will benefit an estimated 50,000 women a year, will enable divorce courts to treat pension rights like any other assets, such as a house, when dividing property between couples.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, said that the measures would provide official recognition of the enormous contribution made to men's careers by wives who

stayed at home to shoulder domestic and caring responsibilities but who were frequently forced on to benefits in their later years.

"This draft Bill recognises that women are more likely than men to be poor in retirement because it is harder for women to build up a decent pension in their own right. Many receive low pay, take breaks in their careers or work part-time," she said. Women aged 65 to 69 have an average income from an occupational pension of £22 a week, men £67.

David Davidson, of the Family Law Association, said the proposals would give cou-

ples the opportunity to achieve a clean break on divorce. "Where a woman continues to receive maintenance from her ex-husband there is always a problem of what happens if he dies and this should solve that by providing her with an income in her own right," he said.

Pensions lawyers said that there would be a rush by husbands to get divorced before the proposals became law. Maggie Rae, of the law firm Mishcon de Reya, which acted for Diana, Princess of Wales, in her divorce, said she envisaged that it would lead to wealthy people trying to shield their pension assets from their

aggrieved spouses. Wives whose husbands are in a company scheme, public-sector scheme or state earnings-related pension scheme will be allowed to take a cash transfer from their husband's pension and set up a fund in their own name. Alternatively, they may be able to join their husband's pension scheme in their own right.

Pension-sharing will not be compulsory but it will be for the courts — not the divorcing couple — to decide whether it is appropriate.

The administrative costs of arranging a split pension will be met by the couple. The costs are estimated at about £700 where the dependent spouse decides to remain within the occupational scheme or private pension. Where a cash transfer is taken, the cost will be about £250.

The proposals are expected to cost the Treasury about £60 million a year by 2020 in lost income and corporation tax. It will save an estimated £5 million a year in state benefits.

Some pensions lawyers were extremely critical. Robin Ellison, head of pensions at Eversheds, said: "The proposals are extraordinarily complicated and will be impossible to explain. They should go back and start again."

Ian Mackay, a spokesman for Families Need Fathers, a charity devoted to helping divorced or separated couples to maintain access to their children, welcomed the principle of pension sharing but said more should be done to encourage working women to make their own pension arrangements.

The escalation of the divorce rate — from 74,000 in 1971 to 155,000 in 1995 — and the growth of pension provision means that pension rights are now an increasingly contentious element of divorce. The husband's pension is often the largest household asset, worth several hundred thousand pounds.

The Commons Social Security Select Committee will take expert evidence on the proposals before reporting by the end of October. Primary legislation is expected by the end of this year.



PAUL VICENTE

Police report on Lawrence murder attacked

By RICHARD DUCE

OFFICIAL explanations for the police failure to secure a conviction in the Stephen Lawrence case were "indefensible", the chairman of the inquiry into his murder said yesterday.

Sir William MacPherson, a former High Court judge, was scathing in his criticism of the senior officer responsible for an internal review into the handling of the black teenager's stabbing more than five years ago.

The evidence of Detective Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker, a former head of the Flying Squad, was so unreliable as to render him useless as a credible witness, Sir William said.

An internal report by Mr Barker, now retired, broadly approving methods in the original murder inquiry, became the police defence against their critics. The report was accepted by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

After listening to evidence of 18 alleged omissions by police in their hunt for the killers, Sir William said of Mr Barker: "In our view, his value as a witness and his credibility in vital matters has already been much undermined for reasons which will be perfectly obvious for anyone here today. We feel we ought to indicate that this review is likely to be regarded by us as indefensible."

Mr Barker, accepting that he was one of Scotland Yard's "highest flying and most trusted detectives", told the inquiry that he did not include strong criticism of the investigation team in his review because senior officers told him it would damage morale. He should focus on constructive suggestions that could lead to progress in the hunt.

He said that although he had not included criticism in the review, he had made strong verbal recommendations to senior officers.

Questioned by Stephen Kamlish, for the Lawrence family, Mr Barker denied he had taken part in a police whitewash.

The inquiry continues.

HOW DIVORCED CAMPAIGNER LOST OUT

Sallie Quin of Fairshares, a group campaigning on behalf of divorced women, would have benefited from the legislation had it been in force when she divorced (Caroline Merrell writes).

Ms Quin split from her husband seven years ago, when she was 47. Then he lost his job and almost immediately started drawing a pension.

Like many women, Ms Quin did not have any pension of her own. She said: "I won six months' maintenance and the equity that had built up in the

house, together with an endowment policy." She carried on living in the house with her 13-year-old daughter and did a variety of part-time jobs to pay the remaining mortgage but had to claim social security benefits because of ill health.

She said: "If the legislation had been in force at the time of my divorce then my settlement would have been much higher. My ex-husband's assets including the pension were worth in total £250,000. My settlement came only to £50,000."



Sallie Quin: had no pension of her own

Judges would have final say over pre-nuptial contracts

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN style pre-nuptial contracts could undermine government plans for pension-splitting, unless judges retain wide discretion to alter them.

Matrimonial lawyers said yesterday that if the Government went ahead with plans to make pre-nuptial contracts legally binding, there was no reason why pensions could not be covered by them.

Simon Pigott, a partner with the newly formed specialist matrimonial firm Levison Meltzer Pigott, said: "If the

purpose of pension-splitting legislation is to make pensions a matrimonial asset, then they could be treated like any other assets, like PEPs or savings people have."

That had always been the core objection to making pre-nuptial contracts legally binding, he said. "Because in theory they undermine any judge's ability to deal with such matters." However, if legislation to make pre-nuptial contracts binding was enacted, it was likely that

judges would retain a wide discretion to vary the terms of agreements and alter them.

James Harcus, another matrimonial lawyer and a partner with Withers, the London law firm, said he thought that if legislation for pre-nuptial contracts came in, it would be specifically phrased so as not to undermine pension-splitting. "I don't think people could contract out of pension-splitting, by pre-nuptial contracts or otherwise," Mr Harcus said.

Cyclists' face masks fail roadside pollution test

By SABA SALMAN

CYCLISTS who use masks to combat air pollution risk breathing in poisonous gases because of false claims by the makers.

The consumer magazine *Health Which?* says today that many of the country's best-selling products perform poorly in tests. Charlotte Gann, the editor, says that cyclists should read the promises made on packaging with scepticism. She adds: "Study the results of our tests carefully before you invest in a cycle

mask as not all masks will give you the protection you're looking for."

Researchers discovered that there was no standard test to show how well masks tackled noxious gases. Most manufacturers claimed that their products filtered such gases but hardly any carried out tests to ascertain that they did.

Health Which? tested seven masks to see how far particles penetrated, the amount of leakage and how much exhaled carbon monoxide

stayed inside. Three products scored well for keeping out regular and ultrafine particles: Kanco Eazy Breathe, Respro Techno Gold and the Techno Gold Upgrade Kit.

Masks that performed poorly included Airwair Neo Face Mask, Airwair Outlaw Bike Scarf, Freeway Basics Cyclist's Face Mask and Respro Urban Survival City 149. The masks also failed to conform to the European standard for particle exclusion.

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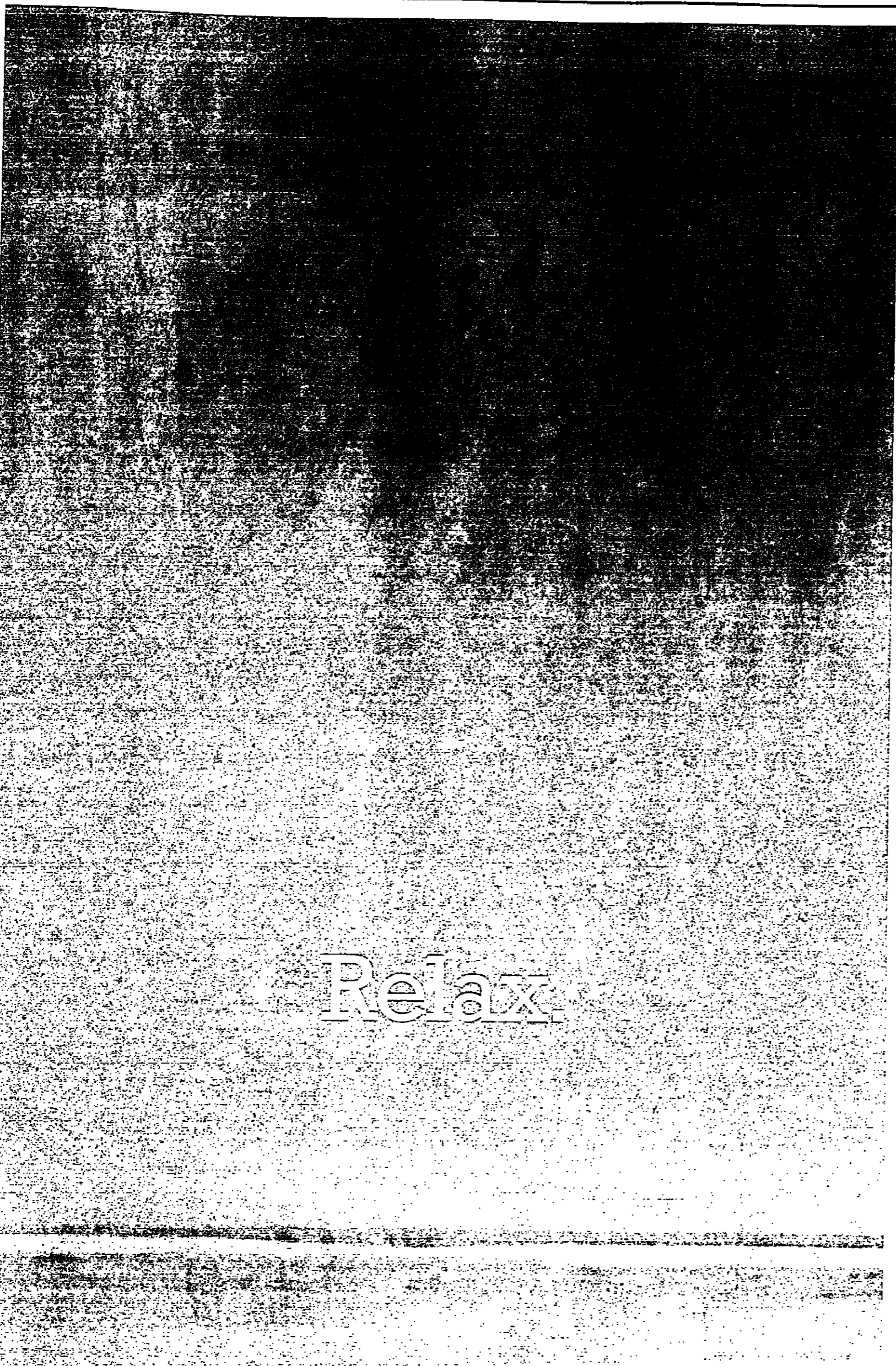
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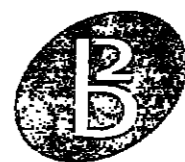
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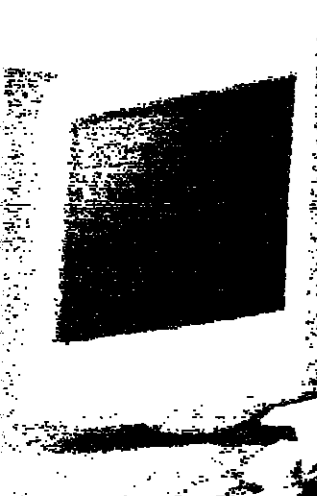
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Prince backed over attack on modified food

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of people in Britain are eating products derived from genetically engineered crops and have little choice about it, consumer and environmental groups said yesterday.

They praised the Prince of Wales for calling for segregation of such crops at source and for clear and comprehensive labelling of products made from them. Farmers and manufacturers of genetically modified (GM) crops, while agreeing on the need to inform consumers, said unwarranted fears must not lead to unreasonable restrictions being imposed on a technology with potentially huge benefits.

Ruth Evans, director of the National Consumer Council, said: "Consumers want to know how their food has been produced because many do not wish to eat produce from GM sources." Robin May-

nard, food campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "We are delighted that Prince Charles has publicly expressed his concerns about genetically engineered crops and food."

"His fears are shared by millions of people in the UK who are already being forced to eat genetically altered food against their will."

The National Farmers' Union said it welcomed the Prince's intervention if it led to more informed debate. "But the aim of the debate must be to remove unnecessary fears and the myth and hyperbole surrounding the subject", Ben Gill, the union president, said.

"Some of the concerns raised by the Prince of Wales, such as the need to be more open with the public, are valid but to suggest that the whole technology is wrong is not right. The potential benefits for food production in the

Third World alone are immense."

Until recently there were only two GM food products available to shoppers in Britain: a vegetarian cheese, made using an enzyme produced by a modified bacterium rather than animal-derived rennet, and a tomato paste, made from tomatoes modified to ripen more slowly. There is less waste, so it can be sold cheaper, retailers say.

Both products were launched with full information and have encountered little consumer resistance. However, meeting the growing demand for information has become much more difficult because of a dramatic increase in the growing of genetically modified varieties of such staple crops as soya, maize and oilseed rape.

This year American farmers have planted about 20 million acres with soya beans - 30 per cent of the total crop - genetically modified to be resistant to a weedkiller manufactured by Monsanto, the US company that developed the new bean.

Soya, much of which is imported from the United States, is present in about three fifths of all processed foods, including products as diverse as chocolate, bread, baby foods and beer. US suppliers have refused to separate GM soya from the conventional varieties they grow, saying that to do so would be impractical and so costly as to make the growing of modified crops unviable.

European Union farm ministers agreed last month to introduce compulsory labelling of all products containing GM soya and maize but only if the altered genetic material is actually detectable. This means that many derivatives of GM soya, such as the oil used in margarine or lecithin, an emulsifier used in a wide range of chocolate and confectionery, do not have to be labelled because such ingredients contain no foreign DNA.

Libby Parves, page 22



Robert Verkerk, right, with his team of termite exterminators in Devon yesterday. "We must eradicate them from the British Isles," he said

Holiday is over for unwelcome visitors

By SIMON DE BAUVELLES

THE termite exterminators moved in yesterday to the Britain of the voracious insects, which have taken up residence in two holiday homes in Devon.

Armed with newly developed chemicals, Robert Verkerk, a biologist, confidently predicted that the termites would be wiped out before they could spread to other homes in the area. His secret weapon is an insect growth inhibitor that the forager termites will, if all goes according to plan, take back to their nest on some tiny-looking cardboard.

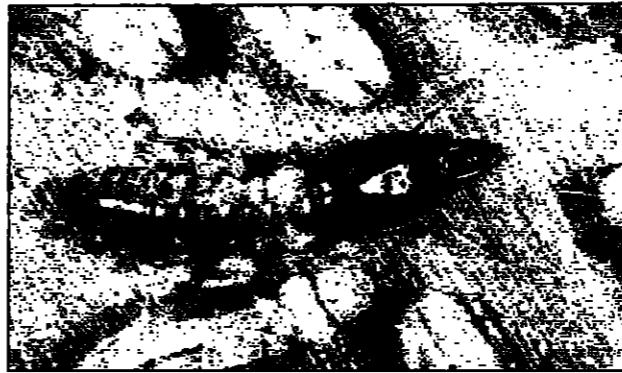
Dr Verkerk, 38, a lecturer at Imperial College, London, said: "The job is a huge logistical exercise. We are checking land around 20 properties within 500 metres of the termite infestation.

There will be 400 bait stakes in the soil, each one of which should hold 5,000 termites.

"This is probably the largest exercise of its kind anywhere in the world. Our brief is not just to eradicate termites from the two affected properties. We must eradicate them 100 per cent from the British Isles."

The two properties being devoured by the termites, at Saunton in north Devon, have been sealed off by Dr Verkerk and his team of six. They expect to destroy all termite activity within the buildings by the end of the summer. Then comes the harder task of tackling the colony at large. It is known to have spread up to seven metres underground in an area 60 metres by 30.

Scientists will bury the



Two holiday homes are infested with the termites

wooden bait stakes and check regularly to see which ones are being eaten. These will be replaced by plastic tubes containing the cardboard impregnated with hexaflumuron.

The owners of the two holiday bungalows have been told to stay away for at least three months. Visitors

will be turned away and a gardener has been told not to mow the lawns in case it upsets the termites.

Bruce Eggleton, whose timber treatment company, McCoy-Hill of Barnstaple, discovered the Saunton colony, said the Government should consider compensa-

tion for the owners. He said his client, Aurea Thornycroft, from Southampton, had been distraught to discover she was banned from her £250,000 bungalow. He said: "She uses the place for holidays and lets it out to friends."

The termites are thought to have arrived in Britain from Spain ten years ago, possibly in the soil of a pot plant imported by a previous owner of Mrs Thornycroft's property. Mrs Thornycroft, a 70-year-old widow, could not be contacted yesterday. Mr Eggleton said: "She just wants to be left alone."

Nick Harvey, the North Devon Liberal Democrat MP who campaigned for the £190,000 eradication programme, said: "I am satisfied the Government is treating this seriously. We will now get a good idea of just how far the termites have spread."

A QUESTION OF GENETICS

Q. The Prince of Wales says that genes from plants, bacteria, viruses, animals and fish are being incorporated into plants. Is this true?

A. In laboratories, yes. But the genetically modified crops so far approved contain only plant or bacterial genes. Getting approval for animal genes in food plants would be much harder, and none is yet in use.

Q. Will the use of herbicide-resistant crops lead to "sterile" fields, providing neither food nor habitat for wildlife?

A. It need not. Herbicide-resistant crops need fewer sprays to control pests than existing crops. More productive crops would allow areas to be left around the edges of fields for wildlife to flourish, though whether farmers would actually do that is open to question.

Q. What about the danger that the herbicide resistance will spread to weeds, making them immune to weedkillers?

A. That would be of concern if there were only a single weedkiller available. There are many, so the dangers of superweeds running wild are unrealistic.

Q. Why can't people be given the choice of eating GM foods, or not eating them if they offend against their principles? Can they not be segregated, like organic and non-organic produce?

A. Yes, at a price. The Canadians did segregate rape seed for a year and found it cost an extra 10 per cent to do so.

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Scotland culls imported deer to save native red

THOUSANDS of Japanese deer that are threatening to destroy the purity of Scotland's native red deer will be shot this summer. The cull is intended to stop imported sika deer diluting the bloodline of the monarchs of the glen.

The advance of the sika has been compared to that of the North American grey squirrel which all but destroyed the European reds by muscling in on their territory. Sika are also prolific breeders. Calves reach sexual maturity at four or five months and they breed all year round, unlike red deer which do not breed until they are two or three years old.

There are between 15,000 and 20,000 sika in Scotland, compared with 300,000 red deer. Andy Rinning, director of the Deer Commission for Scotland, which published details of the initiative yesterday, said that if the sika population continued to grow and breed with red deer, they could contaminate the genetic integrity of the species.

Current estimates suggest that without a cull, pure red deer could be wiped out within 50 years.

"We know through DNA testing that there is a hybrid population in existence already. What we are trying to do is restrict the numbers of sika to their core populations. If we could reduce the sika population by half we would be happy," Mr Rinning said. The four-month cull of male sika, which is supported by

Gillian Harris
on the threat posed by the fast-breeding sika to genetic purity of species

the Forestry Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage, will begin in July. Females will be shot between October and February when they are not suckling calves.

Hybrid deer, which can be identified by their white rumps and white markings on their hind legs, will also be shot. Sika are smaller than red deer, with spotted summer coats, but the hybrids often display characteristics from both breeds.

Sika deer were introduced to Europe from Japan in the 1890s. A Victorian estate owner in Co Wicklow arranged for a herd to be shipped over and put on display for visitors who were intrigued by the exotic species. In 1993 Lord Balfour took some of the Irish herd to his estate in Peebles in southern Scotland.

Within 20 years the sika population in Scotland had exploded. Many escaped from estates while others, which thrived in the damp, inclement weather, were released

into the wild. They began to colonise areas of southwest Scotland before moving north to Kintyre, Loch Lomond and Inverness.

Sika are shy, nocturnal creatures which makes them difficult to manage. They live in thick woodland, surviving on a diet of saplings.

"There is an urgent need for improved management and control methods to be applied if we are to avoid serious damage to forestry, woodland and agricultural crops," Patrick Gordon-Duff-Pennington, chairman of the DCS, said.

Red deer with sika blood in them are smaller and lighter than pure-bred red deer which could make them less profitable to sporting estates.

The cull is not intended to rid Scotland of all sika deer. Core populations in Kintyre and around Peebles, where there are fewer red deer, will be allowed to survive.



A young sika: the deer's advance has been compared to that of grey squirrels over red

Island seals shot on the day they lose protection

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE first victims of the Government's decision to lift the ban on shooting common seals on the Shetland Islands have been discovered on a beach, it emerged yesterday.

Nicholas Crichton, an English stipendiary magistrate, has reported that he discovered three dead seals riddled with bullet holes on the afternoon of April 29, the day that the ban was lifted.

He was staying at his holiday cottage on Yell when he came across the bodies while out walking. The three seals were not far from a salmon farm on Basta Voe, a large inlet on the island's east side.

"One of them had its head off. It looked like it had been machine-gunned," Mr Crichton, who lives at Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire, said. "It was so disgusting, I can't tell you. These were regular, round bullet holes. I don't think they were holes pecked by birds."

The Government announced it was to lift the year-round protection for common seals on Shetland to bring them into

line with the rest of the country. They were to be protected only during the breeding season from June to August because their population had reached a "sustainable minimum" of 6,000.

At the time, the Seal Conservation Society called the decision a "licence to kill" and predicted widespread culls. The local tourist board also objected, fearing that it might discourage visitors, many of whom visit the islands to enjoy the wildlife.

Peter Haddow, the secretary of the Seal Conservation Society, said yesterday that in reality fish farmers could shoot either species, common or grey seals, any time they liked. The law was "very hazy" and in urgent need of reform, he said.

Dan Thompson, a partner in the Basta Voe salmon farm, said that he had seen the dead seals himself but added: "We don't shoot seals. I'm very conscious of the fact that we're the people most likely to get the blame but we completely deny it."

Dormice prepare for life in the wild

BY A CORRESPONDENT

DORMICE that made a home in the path of the Channel Tunnel rail link were yesterday getting used to life in the wild again. The 30 animals have been moved from Kent to an ancient woodland in Buckinghamshire, where they will be kept in cages and fed until they are ready to be released.

The scheme — supported by Union Railways, the Channel Tunnel rail link developer — includes the reintroduction of 20 dormice in Warwickshire and is one of the largest ever co-ordinated by English Nature. It will be carried out by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trusts (BBONT).

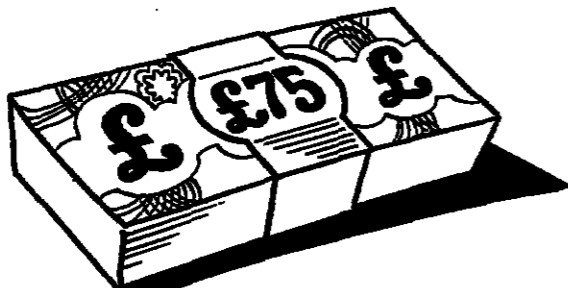
Falling numbers of dormice have been blamed on the loss of habitat and of its favourite food, the hazelnut. Christine

Bailey, rare species officer for BBONT, said: "The reception site is an ancient woodland with hazel coppice. Nest boxes are also provided and experience has shown that dormice will use these, making it relatively straightforward for us to monitor their health before and after the long winter sleep."

Dr Pat Morris co-ordinates the species recovery programme with Dr Paul Bright at Royal Holloway College, London. He said: "It is fantastic to be doing something positive to counteract 100 years of dormouse decline."

At the Buckinghamshire site yesterday the dormice were familiarising themselves with the sounds and smells of the woodland. The cage doors will open for good on June 17.

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Blair to create up to 20 more Labour peers

James Landale on the Prime Minister's plan to reinforce his noble troops

TONY BLAIR will next week announce the creation of up to 20 more Labour life peers to boost his numbers on the back benches in the House of Lords. There will also be a handful of Liberal Democrat and Tory peers in the latest tranche of between 25 to 30 new working peers. The move will follow the creation of a few peers this weekend when the Queen's Birthday Honours List is announced. Among those widely tipped to be honoured are Sir Terence Burns, the outgoing Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, and the former Tory Chancellor Norman Lamont. The Prime Minister's working peers list is expected to include some pro-Labour businessmen and figures from the arts and entertainments world, including the broadcaster Melvyn Bragg, Tom Sawyer, the outgoing general secretary of the Labour Party, is also expected to get a peerage. Sir Tim Bell, the Tory

advertising supremo behind Margaret Thatcher's public relations, has been tipped as one of the few new Tory working peers. The new peers will arrive at Westminster as the battle over the future of the Lords begins to heat up. The prospect of any cross-party agreement on the issue looked doomed last night after ministers and senior Tory peers staked out their increasingly polarised positions. The Government made clear its unequivocal determination to expel hereditary peers. But the Tories accused Mr Blair of being more concerned with boosting his control over Parliament than in seriously reforming the Lords. Although private talks have taken place between Lord Richard, Leader of the Lords, and his Tory counterpart, Viscount Cranborne, they have halted without agreement. The outspoken language of the two peers' speeches yesterday at a

London conference made clear that the gloves are off. Lord Richard said that any attempt by the Tories to use their hereditary peers to block reform would be "a constitutional outrage" and threatened to invoke the Parliament Acts. These allow the Commons to override any Lords opposition to a Bill after a year's delay. He said that no one should have any "lingering doubts" about our determination to see through reform of the House of Lords. Reform was vital because the status of hereditary peers was "unjustified and anachronistic" and produced "gross political imbalance" in the Tories' favour. "The continuation of hereditary membership of the second chamber is not for negotiation. In a modern Parliament, there really should be no reserved seats booked generations ago for a privileged few." But he denied that Labour planned to flood the Lords with new peers.

The two-stage reform programme will begin with a Bill this autumn to abolish the sitting and voting rights of the 631 hereditary peers. Before wider, second-stage reforms designed to create what the Government intends to be a more democratic and representative Upper House, there will be an interim chamber comprising about 500 nominated life peers, including some crossbenchers, bishops and law lords. The powers of the Lords will remain unaltered. Many peers fear that the second-stage reforms will never happen and Lord Cranborne said that ministers had confirmed this in private. He accused Mr Blair of being a "puritan control freak" who hated "the threat to his unfettered power" from an independent second chamber. The expulsion of hereditary peers was "one giant smokescreen" under which Lord Richard will deliver to the Prime Minister "the su-



Tipped for the Lords: Norman Lamont and, below, Melvyn Bragg



preme prize of patronage — a wholly nominated House". But he acknowledged that Labour could press on regardless of any opposition. "We are the fuzzy wuzzies, but he has the Maxim gun and we have not," he said.

Leading article, page 23

Ashdown says cut Commons by 150 MPs

By Polly Newton

THE Liberal Democrats called yesterday for a cut in the number of MPs and government ministers, attacking Westminster as "the biggest job preservation conspiracy in the land". Paddy Ashdown, party leader, said that the 659-strong House of Commons should be reduced by at least 150. "Five hundred is a more than adequate number. Many countries survive on far fewer." In a speech to coincide with the publication of a Liberal Democrat report reviewing party policy on the constitution, Mr Ashdown said that the number of ministers should never exceed a tenth of the number of MPs. "That's a cut in half. We don't need them." Mr Ashdown also called for a drastic cut in the number of peers, and the transformation of the Upper House into a senate consisting of mainly elected members with some appointees.

A Lords' last stand would be self-defeating

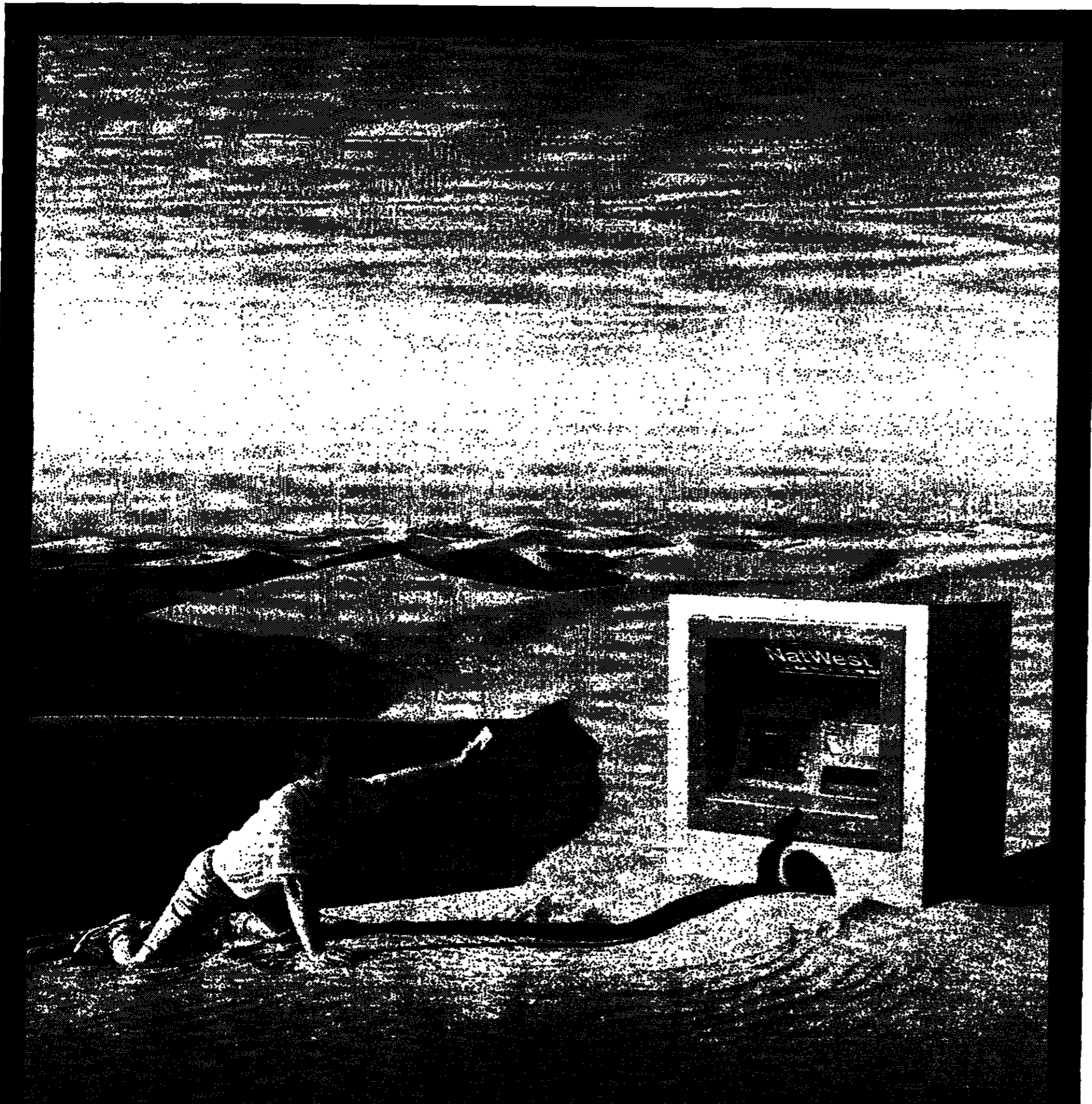
PADDY ASHDOWN last night made the type of speech on the constitution that Tony Blair ought to be delivering. It was not so much Mr Ashdown's ambitious, probably overambitious, list of specific proposals than his general case for constitutional reform. That has been singularly lacking from ministers, and particularly from Mr Blair, and partly accounts for the problems that the Government has got into over the House of Lords. Mr Ashdown's starting point was a comment by Professor Patrick Dunleavy of the London School of Economics about how, for Labour, constitutional reform has become like privatisation was the Tories in the 1980s, "an initially small and particular set of ideas that built up into a rolling programme of reform with a clear ideological rationale". There is something in this comparison, although from early days, some key ministers like Nigel Lawson knew what they wanted to achieve, even if they were initially less sure what was achievable. Quite quickly, as Mr Ashdown pointed out, "people understood what the Government was trying to do" over privatisation. However, he said, "I am not convinced they yet do, when it comes to constitutional reform". Hence, "the onus is now on those of us who believe in reform to set out why we believe it, to set out the big picture", as he did in his speech. The main emphasis of ministers has, however, been on specific responses to specific problems, devolution in Scotland and Wales, a London-wide mayor and authority, having a Bill of Rights tested in British courts. The Government can reasonably argue that, as happened with privatisation, it is reforming on a step-by-step basis, while the various changes are consistent with each other. But consistency is not the same as coherence, and there has been little sense of the inter-connections or the wider implications. The Liberal Democrats have a sweeping plan for reform — not just what Labour has promised but also, in the first report from its Policy Review Commission, propo-

national representation for Westminster and local authorities, the creation of an elected senate (though Mr Ashdown would retain a crossbench appointed element), fixed-term Parliaments, regional government for England, a Supreme Court (able to strike down legislation and resolve disputes within a federal structure), and a written constitution. And all law within four years. The Lib Dems are rushing far too fast. An extensive public debate is needed before most of these changes are introduced, while referendums are also necessary (for which Mr Ashdown rightly believes there should be clear rules, as well as a permanent Electoral Commission). At least, the Lib Dems recognise that reform needs to be considered as a whole. That is the flaw in the Government's approach to Lords reform. Abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers is

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

mainly presented as justifiable in its own right in largely populist terms. There has been insufficient public discussion by ministers either about the role and functions of a second chamber or its long-term composition. A mere promise of consultation is hardly enough. Lord Richard, leader of the Lords, argued yesterday that a reformed House would not be given additional powers as a revising chamber. But removing the hereditary peers could result in the remaining life peers being more willing to use their largely latent existing powers more fully. The balance between Lords and Commons will change. These criticisms do not justify the more excitable protests of some hereditary peers, and their ultra-allies in the press. A last-ditch campaign of obstruction would play into Mr Blair's hands. But the Government needs to start talking about its broader aims: how Lords reform relates to the Commons and to the creation of a new constitutional settlement.

PETER RIDDELL



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Old comrades spurn peace in Horn of Africa

DESPITE a friendship between the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea, formed when they were comrades during one of Africa's most vicious civil wars, the possibility of the two men finding a peaceful solution to their border conflict looked remote yesterday.

Meles Zenawi, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, and President Afewerki of Eritrea fought together to overthrow Mengistu Haile Mariam, Ethiopia's Stalinist dictator. Tanks and artillery from Mr Afewerki's Eritrean People's Liberation Front were in the vanguard when their joint forces stormed into Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, in 1991. Mr Meles's fighters with the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, whose homeland runs along the disputed border, provided highly disciplined infantry, easily cutting through the Soviet-trained Ethiopian conscripts.

Now, former members of both guerrilla movements are being remobilised and rushed to the front line in the Horn of Africa, where both sides appear to be massing for a confrontation. The conflict, whose origins go back decades, was sparked when Eritrea attacked Ethiopian positions in the "Badme Triangle". The Ethiopians had earlier, they claim, temporarily occu-

Sam Kiley looks at the pressures that have turned close allies into bitter enemies

piated parts of the region to bring warring tribesmen under control.

Simultaneously, early last month, Ethiopian troops crept into Eritrean territory on the trail of Afar bandits and opposition groups based in the

ROOTS OF CONFLICT

Danakil Depression and, according to the Eritreans, stayed without permission.

Emissaries from both sides have said they expected the dispute to be resolved amicably. But for Mr Afewerki, a brilliant guerrilla leader much admired by his people, the borders of his country, which won independence in 1993 as part of a deal for helping Mr Meles to depose Mengistu, were sacrosanct.

"The problem for the Eritreans is mainly psychological.

Guerrillas who fought for decades in the bush see compromise as weakness. They have failed to turn themselves into politicians and statesmen. When they are under pressure, that is when they feel strongest," said a Middle Eastern diplomat who stayed in Asmara, Eritrea's capital, after most foreigners were evacuated at the weekend.

While his diplomats and their opposite numbers in Addis Ababa were planning map-drawing sessions to sort out the squabble, Mr Afewerki acted in the only way he knew how, and ordered his men to attack at Zalambessa, 100 miles south of his capital, where Ethiopians, he said, were occupying his territory. The sudden move caught Ethiopia off balance, and his men are now at least ten miles inside Ethiopian territory.

Mr Meles, a member of the Tigrayan minority, dare not negotiate for fear of a backlash from Amhara imperialists and the Oromo majority tribe. Both were outraged when Ethiopia gave both its ports, Asab and Masawa, to Eritrea.

"Meles has to pursue a military solution until the Eritreans agree to withdraw. He would not last long if he appeared to favour his old friend over his own people," the Arab diplomat said.



Newly-mobilised militiamen are transported yesterday towards the border conflict front line near Zalambessa in Ethiopia's Tigré province

Budget squeeze forces envoys to plug gaps

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN

ERITREA is one of the casualties of the squeeze on the Foreign Office budget. Britain has been unable to afford an embassy in Asmara since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia five years ago. But Eritrea is not alone:

almost half the countries of Africa now have no resident British diplomats, as the main nations of Europe withdraw from the continent.

The break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia were the final straws. Britain had to

find, equip and staff a dozen new missions in the former Soviet Union, and five more in the former Yugoslavia. This came during a decade when the budget for overseas operations fell sharply in real terms.

Africa was the biggest loser, with posts being abolished in countries where there were few British links, little trade

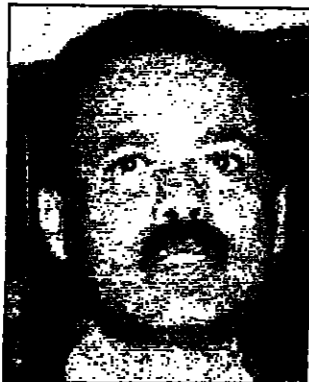
and no easy communications. Embassies were consolidated into regional centres, with one ambassador accredited to two or three countries.

Britain relies on honorary consuls in countries where it has no representation — usually businessmen, local expatriates or even citizens of the country who have links with

Britain. They do not have diplomatic immunity, are not paid and are able to give only limited services and protection to British citizens.

In countries where a crisis erupts or Britain suddenly has a greater interest, there is the flexibility to open a new diplomatic mission or transfer an established one.

Well-armed 'David with attitude' takes on Ethiopian Goliath



Duel of veterans: President Afewerki of Eritrea, left, and the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FIREPOWER

ERITREA, an independent state of only five years, might appear to be David taking on Goliath in the border confrontation which is now developing into a full-scale war.

However, a combination of foreign training and astute buying of equipment over the past few years has converted the Eritrean Army into a more capable and sophisticated opponent for Ethiopia. As Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group said: "Eritrea is like David with attitude."

The biggest equipment windfall for the Eritreans came after the end of

hotly disputed negotiations over the carve-up of the Ethiopian Navy following Eritrea's winning of independence in 1993.

Eritrea acquired two ports, Masawa in the north and the strategic naval base at Asab on the southern tip, as well as warships and patrol boats. The country sold most of its naval assets in late 1996, principally to Sudan, providing much-needed cash for the purchase of advanced communications and electronic warfare equipment.

The sales also probably helped to

pay for six Italian Aermacchi 339 advanced fighter training aircraft which were delivered in 1996. The Eritreans, who spent \$80 million (£49 million) on defence last year compared with Ethiopia's expenditure of \$127 million, also bought eight Finnish Redigo training aircraft, one Chinese Y11 transport plane and an Israeli electronic warfare aircraft. The pilots are former Ethiopian Air Force staff.

The trainer aircraft were reportedly delivered without armaments, but the Eritreans have adapted them for a ground-attack role and have acquired munitions.

The Italians, Israelis and Ameri-

cans have all helped with training, and the military assessment is that the Eritrean armed forces are well organised, adequately equipped and more than capable of countering Ethiopian attacks, despite the difference in the size of the forces — Ethiopia has 120,000; Eritrea has 46,000.

After the "war of liberation", between 800 and 900 battle tanks survived the conflict, many of which have been held in storage.

The Eritrean forces captured some of the tanks, although it is not clear how many they have in operational condition. However, military sources in the region said that the Eritreans

were adroit at cannibalising their tanks for spare parts.

The Israelis have been helping both countries to rearm, including assisting with supplying spare parts for Russian-made equipment from Romania. Eritrea has also been adept at stealing spare parts and equipment from across the Ethiopian border.

However, neither side is fully prepared for a war, because each country is still in the process of developing its forces. Each side has ordered communications, command and control and electronic warfare systems, but not everything is yet in place.

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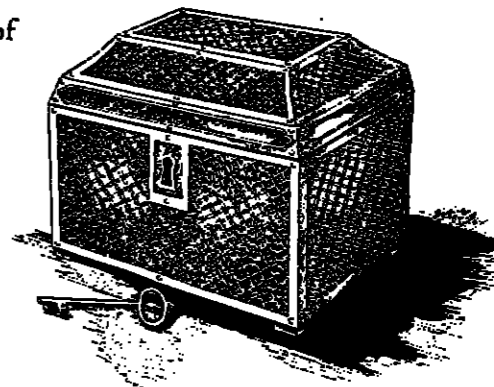
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Chirac joins Kohl in attack on Brussels

A WEEK before the Cardiff European Union summit, France and Germany have upset more federal-minded member states with a call for reforms aimed at trimming the powers of the EU's centralised institutions.

The Dutch, Belgian, Luxembourg and other governments yesterday complained that Britain, currently EU president, was allowing Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France to rush leaders into reopening arguments shelved a year ago with the Amsterdam treaty. "It's a debate that could take a dangerous turn," said a Dutch diplomat.

Tony Blair is due in Luxembourg and Brussels today to sound out Jean-Claude Juncker and Jean-Luc Dehaene, his Luxembourg and Belgian counterparts, as part of a pre-summit tour to prepare Cardiff's agenda. While British officials played down the Franco-German letter as a "contribution to the debate", some diplomats saw it as an attempt to turn the Cardiff spotlight away from British preoccupations.

Much of the joint letter to Mr Blair chimes with the Government's own thinking on the need for "bringing Europe closer to the people". However, it seeks to achieve the Franco-German aim of

Small states fear loss of power, writes Charles Bremner in Luxembourg

deeper political integration ahead of EU enlargement to the east. It reflects growing resistance in Germany to interference by "Brussels" — a mood being amplified by the country's general election campaign. Herr Kohl's new posture as the scourge of Brussels, eclipsing his mantle of apostle of union, fits with M Chirac's long-held belief in a Europe of nation states.

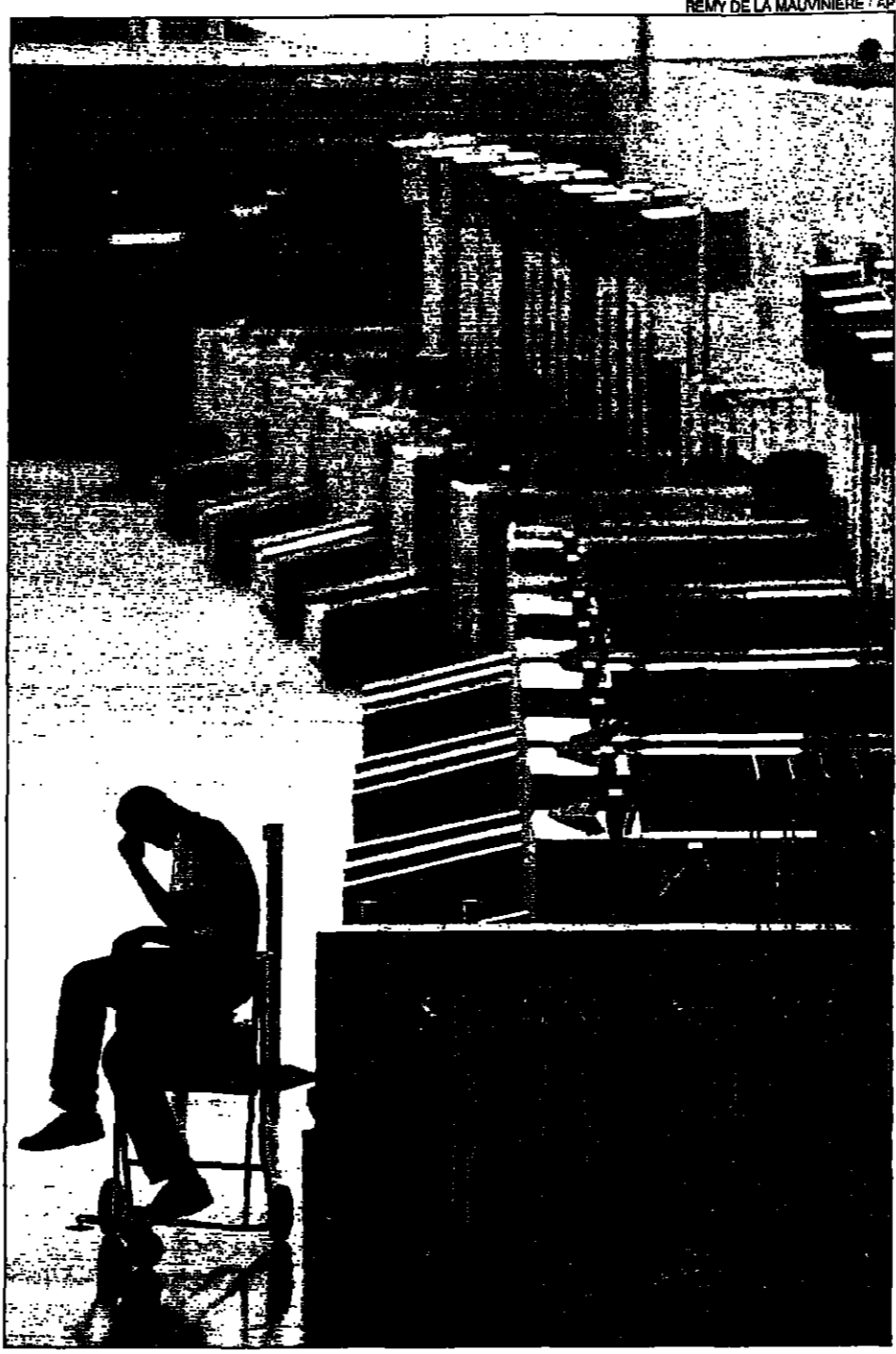
France and Germany have never wanted "a centralised European state", they say. The two seek a strong union that draws on "the diversity of political, cultural and regional traditions". To achieve this, the powers of the EU's decision-making bodies, including the Commission, have to be trimmed and reformed. This required more "subsidiarity", the principle of taking decisions at the lowest possible level of government. At the same time, there should be more common foreign policy

and co-operation on justice and frontier issues.

The Chirac-Kohl letter was designed in part to repair relations after their row at last month's Brussels summit over the European Central Bank presidency. However, it is being taken seriously by EU states as the latest in a line of ideas from Bonn and Paris that have shaped the organisation: a similar brief letter in 1990 from Herr Kohl and the late President Mitterrand launched the process towards monetary union.

Smaller and more federalist states see the latest move as a step back from union and an attempt to trim their own influence. Resistance from smaller states at Amsterdam last year blocked key reforms to the Commission and other institutions. Hans van Mierlo and Erik Derycke, the Dutch and Belgian Foreign Ministers, yesterday demanded that the Germans spell out their complaints and proposed remedies. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who was chairing the Luxembourg session, cut off debate, saying it should be left for Cardiff.

Mr Blair wants a wide review of options for the EU's future. Herr Kohl and M Chirac suggested setting a deadline — December's Vienna summit — for drawing conclusions on new reforms.



The deserted Air France desk at Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris. A strike by the airline's pilots continued yesterday, although the World Cup starts tomorrow

Bonn seeks to rally Yeltsin against Serbs

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday sought Russian help in putting pressure on President Milosevic of Yugoslavia to halt military operations in the province of Kosovo. The fighting in Kosovo is dominating the difficult talks between Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Yeltsin and underlines how far apart the two leaders have drifted since the early 1990s when they negotiated in the sauna.

The rough edge of the relationship emerged clearly in talks between the Foreign Ministers, Klaus Kinkel and Yevgeni Primakov. Several ministers have accompanied President Yeltsin in an attempt to mimic Franco-German and Anglo-German summits.

Mr Primakov, a fierce opponent of sanctions against Serbia, was dismayed by the European ban on investment in Belgrade. He argued against any further economic restrictions and came out firmly against any Western military intervention. Since Russian support is essential to the passage of any United Nations-sponsored move against Belgrade, Herr Kinkel — a champion of rapid military action along the borders of Kosovo — talked his way into a stalemate.

Kosovo was due to be taken up again today when Herr Kohl gets down to more detailed talks with Mr Yeltsin. Tony Blair — who telephoned Mr Yeltsin at the weekend — will also arrive in Bonn today, to prepare the Cardiff European summit.

to underpin credit lines with government guarantees. Even some of Germany's top Russian lobbyists were yesterday urging extreme caution. Herr Kohl intends to offer the Russians help only in securing further loans from the International Monetary Fund.

Herr Kohl, with an election in view, cannot be seen to make concessions to the Russians on such sensitive issues as the return of looted art works. President Yeltsin yesterday hinted that, if Germany were to hand over two mosaics taken from the lost Amber Room, in a tsarist palace near St Petersburg, his position in the Duma would be strengthened and it would be easier to give some art back to the Germans. But there seemed no possibility of this happening. Herr Kohl is even more constrained than Mr Yeltsin.

The Russian leader at least showed the confidence yesterday of someone who has come through the worst of a financial crisis. The German leader, by contrast, conveyed the caution of a politician who cannot afford to expose himself to criticism for letting down German national interests. Five years ago he could have argued that Russian financial stability was central to the German interest. Now such arguments carry little weight with voters.

However, the Germans seemed to be quite close to a deal on the purchase of a Russian-Ukrainian transport plane, the Antonov 70.

Germany apologises for 1904 slaughter of Africans

BY ROGER BOYES

GERMANY has apologised for a 1904 massacre of thousands of men, women and children from the Herero tribe of Namibia, territory which was previously a German colony.

The tribe's leaders had been demanding a public statement of regret and compensation for the activities of General Lothar von Trotha, who trapped guerrillas and their families in the Omaheke desert in what was then South-West Africa. Waterholes were poisoned and anyone trying to flee was bayoneted to death. The Germans set up labour

camps where many Hereros starved or died of typhus and smallpox. Diplomatic sources supplied *The Times* with a text of a Foreign Ministry note that makes plain Germany's position. The treatment of the Hereros in 1904, it says, was "a particularly dark chapter in our bilateral relations... the moral responsibility has to weigh heavily on the consciences of all historically sensitive Germans". Similar phrases were used in a recent visit to Africa by President Herzog. But Germany still seems reluctant to make any compensation to the Hereros. Germany, said the Foreign Ministry

note, was giving aid to Namibia. "This engagement encompasses the whole country and all the peoples of Namibia. A few projects are directly benefiting the Hereros."

That is some way short of Herero demands. The tribe was almost wiped out by the Germans — from 80,000 at the turn of the century, their numbers fell to 15,000 in a 1911 census. They are now greatly outnumbered by the Ovambo people, who were too far north to be ruled by the Germans. The governing party, the South West African People's Organisation (Swapo), is dominated by Ovambos. German aid, they say,

may reflect a guilty conscience but it is not trickling through to the Hereros, the descendants of the real victims.

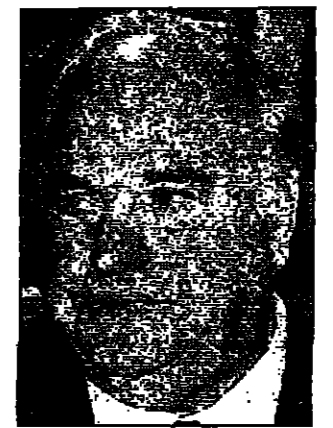
German settlers were — like other colonialists — brutal as they pushed inland, grabbing territory and cattle and murdering the natives. This continued for 20 years until 1904 when the Hereros struck back (albeit sparing German women, children, missionaries and English farmers). Kaiser Wilhelm II was furious and despatched General von Trotha with 10,000 troops. The general issued an extermination order: "Within the German borders every Herero,

whether armed or unarmed, with or without cattle, will be shot. I shall not accept any more women or children. I shall drive them back to their people — otherwise I shall order shots to be fired at them."

The Hereros seemed to have mixed feelings about the Germans. On public holidays, the men wear German uniforms, and German diplomats are invited to Herero ceremonies. Many Herero women were forced into sexual slavery by the settlers. As a result, Hereros frequently have German ancestors. A form of German is spoken widely throughout Namibia.

There seems little doubt that Kosovo will now be the main foreign policy problem at Cardiff. Although President Yeltsin made much yesterday of his friendship with Herr Kohl, he will also be having breakfast with the Chancellor's rival, Gerhard Schröder.

The idea that Germans can still sway Russia to co-operate in international initiatives seems outdated. Germany is no longer able to offer generous financial aid to Russia. Germany is Russia's most important trading partner, but there is no eagerness in the country to extend new credit or



Kohl: unable to make concessions to Russia

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CHANGING TIMES

Bosnia

Moderate Rugova threatened

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Bosnia teaches Nato there can be no half-measures

The new images of Balkan conflict have an eerie familiarity but the latest crisis is different in character, writes **Lawrence Freedman**

The time has now come to draw on the lessons of Bosnia. For the past few months Western leaders have been watching with growing anguish and anger the intensification of the conflict in Kosovo.

proach turned out to be misconceived. For a start, once outsiders and international institutions start to get involved in one of these conflicts the stakes immediately increase, because now commitment, competence and credibility are also on the line.

alone. The practice of ethnic cleansing was part of a straightforward territorial battle, undertaken with a view to an eventual partition. In Kosovo, images of the conflict, of desperate people on the road, have an eerie familiarity, but the character of the dispute is different. Kosovo is part of Serbia, but ethnic

leaders will be treated with contempt, and the Albanians will have to learn to accept their fate.

A third lesson of Bosnia may be that external intervention should be geared to an eventual settlement but this conflict is even more intractable. There is no obvious solution based on partition. A solution requires a transfer of power, although Kosovo might still be an autonomous unit within the rump Yugoslavia.

If not, there might still be intervention, but only to contain the conflict—the first instinct in the Bosnian case as well. The priority will be to stop the fire spreading into Macedonia and Albania, and the rest of the Balkans.

With that in mind, Nato has decided upon dispatching troops for joint exercises in these countries. This may

help to reassure Albania and Macedonia, but it is not altogether clear what it would do for Kosovo. The troops might deter Serbian forces from chasing the KLA into sanctuaries across the borders, but would they also seek to prevent KLA fighters from mounting raids against Serb positions in Kosovo itself?

Any commitment of troops that appears to be preparatory to a move into Kosovo might have some effect. But the next lesson from Bosnia is that it is dangerous to make threats that you dare not follow through. Once a Nato intervention becomes a possibility, local actions will start to adjust their behaviour and may become disheartened or emboldened if nothing much then happens.

It also has to be understood that a decision to intervene will involve more than Nato acting to ensure that the two parties conduct their dispute in a more civilised manner. The alliance will have turned itself into a power broker setting the terms for a resolution.

It is not easy to walk away from this sort of role. Another lesson from Bosnia: there can be no quick exit.

An undertaking requires a broadly based coalition. As the entry of troops into Kosovo will not be welcomed by the recognised Government, which will complain about an interference in internal affairs, it may be difficult to get a resolution through the Security Council. Sunday's conversation between Mr Blair and President Yeltsin (who currently needs Western support to manage Russia's economic difficulties) may have established the basis for a UN move.

It is often said that external intervention into these messy conflicts does more harm than good. This view not only requires an end to all hopes for a liberal international order but is also challenged by the experience of Bosnia. Nonetheless, the implications of any move into Kosovo are severe. Which leads to the basic lesson of Bosnia, and much of 20th-century history: if you get involved in the Balkans, be prepared for a long haul and a substantial commitment. Above all, don't dabble.

Lawrence Freedman is Professor of War Studies at King's College London

COMMENTARY

Serbs constitute only 10 per cent of the population. The rest are largely ethnic Albanians. Kosovo cannot be cleansed of Albanians and that is not what the Serbs are trying to do.

Rather, the Serbs are seeking to ensure that they have control of the internal lines of communication and what they suspect to be the bases of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). If this can be crushed, they reckon that local resistance will be ineffectual and immaterial. The more moderate Kosovo



Demaci: backs fighting

Moderate Rugova threatened

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRISTINA

AS KOSOVO sinks further into war, it drags down with it the reputations of the ethnic Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, and his Democratic League for Kosovo—moderates who have championed Gandhi-style non-co-operation over guerrilla resistance.

With the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) unleashing itself as a fighting force, Mr Rugova is struggling to retain his domestic credibility while his radical opponents line up to usurp him.

Among those now championing armed resistance to the Serbs is Adem Demaci, 63, president of the Kosovo Parliamentary Party, who was jailed for 28 years under Tito. He believes Yugoslavia is about to be ripped apart into a Balkan confederation of three states—Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro.

"We do not condemn the KLA because it is the result of Serb terror," he said. "I know the nature of the Serb regime, and Albanians must defend themselves."

Milosevic faced with EU threat to send in troops

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

SANCTIONS

THE European Union yesterday banned new EU investments in Serbia and warned President Milosevic to expect possible military intervention if he pursued his military campaign in the province of Kosovo.

In one of the tougher stands taken by the EU's much-criticised foreign policy machine, foreign ministers warned Mr Milosevic that he bore direct responsibility for "a campaign of violence going far beyond what could legitimately be described as a targeted anti-terrorist operation". They added: "He should not believe that the international community will be taken in by talk of peace when the reality on the ground is ever greater repression."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said Mr Milosevic "should back off and back off now". Speaking for Britain's presidency of the EU, he

added: "This is the last warning for the Prime Minister. I hope Mr Milosevic is listening... if he continues to cross the line and use unacceptable military measures against civilians, he cannot be surprised by the options used."

With immediate effect all new investments in Serbia would be outlawed and the EU would press ahead with a commitment to freeze Yugoslav and Serbian state assets. The main impact will be to halt a \$1 billion (£600 million) investment by Italian and Greek companies in Serbian telecommunications. The ministers promised other measures if the Kosovo violence was not halted. The EU has already banned arms exports and restricted travel visas for Yugoslav officials.

The main sign of a European resolve that was largely absent from the earlier Yugoslav crises was the readiness



Serbian police armed with automatic weapons patrolling Djakovica in Kosovo on Sunday as part of an escort for foreign diplomat observers

of the 15 foreign ministers, including those of Greece and France, to back possible military intervention, which is now being prepared at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

"The EU encourages international security organisations to pursue their efforts in this respect and to consider all options, including those which would require an authorisation by the United Nations Security Council," the ministers said.

Although the EU contains a majority of Nato member

governments, it has no defence structure of its own.

Britain is working at the United Nations for a resolution that would endorse a Nato-led action in Kosovo if it became necessary to halt Serbian violence against Kosovo's majority Albanian population. Hubert Védrine, the French minister, whose Government had previously been reluctant to enter the Kosovo fray, said it was "logical and legitimate" to seek a Security Council resolution for possible action.

Greece, which has the EU's

closest links with Serbia, backed the EU move, saying Mr Milosevic had wrecked talks with the Kosovo Albanian leaders after only two meetings. "We feel that there should have been on behalf of Milosevic a much more conservative stand, so that the talks could continue," said George Papandreu, the Deputy Foreign Minister.

The EU ministers said they were disturbed that the actions by Serbian security police "are beginning to constitute a new wave of ethnic

cleansing... We insist on an immediate stop to all violent action and call for the withdrawal of special police and army units. Refugees must be allowed to return, and access must be given to international observers and war crimes investigators."

Macedonia and Albania, the neighbouring states "have a particular responsibility to ensure that their territory is not used in support of Kosovo Liberation Army activity". The EU wants Serbia to grant "a large degree of autonomy for

Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

Klaus Kinkel, the German minister, said Mr Milosevic appeared to have decided that his survival lay in setting "Serbia against the whole world".

Wolfgang Schäffer, the Austrian Foreign Minister, whose country takes over the EU presidency next month, said he feared a bloodbath in Kosovo if the world failed to act soon.

Leading article, page 23

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Croatia army general 'leads guerrilla fight'

By TOM WALKER

SERB military and police chiefs in Kosovo suspect a former Croatian general of ethnic Albanian descent is commanding the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), sources close to the province's security forces say.

They believe the officer—Rahim Ademi, 44—has set up headquarters in northern Albania, now flooded by thousands of refugees. Sources in the Croatian Army have confirmed that General Ademi disappeared from his job three or four months ago.

Serb sources said that the police and army had been surprised by the organisation and ferocity of the KLA's defence

over the past two weeks in the western Dodecan region, and have attributed it to a command structure comprising experienced ethnic Albanian officers formerly serving with the Yugoslav National Army, and later with Croatian, Slovenian and Bosnian forces.

Croatia's Ministry of Defence, embarrassed by reports that some former officers are serving with the KLA, yesterday said that any doing so were "in grave breach of the rules". It did not confirm or deny that General Ademi was involved. The army magazine *Hrvatski Vojnik* also refused to give any information on the general.

What is a leading cause of blindness in the UK?

SEE PAGE 21

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Mystery tribe is found in Brazil

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A TRIBE of warrior-like, hunter Indians — until now unknown to science — has been discovered in one of the remotest corners of Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

Turmoil follows death of junta chief in Nigeria

NIGERIA, Africa's most populous country, was plunged into political turmoil yesterday with the sudden death of General Sani Abacha.

Regime's critics see little hope of an early return to democracy, writes Michael Binyon

Michael Binyon

annulled the results of a general election. Chief Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner, was arrested and is still in detention.

Dozens of other political opponents were arrested, including 19 leaders of the Ogoni people who were accused of sabotage and treason. Eight of them, including the writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa, were hanged in 1995 on the eve of the Commonwealth conference, despite worldwide appeals.

Ken Wiwa, his son, said in London yesterday that he was not 100 per cent sure that General Abacha had died from a heart attack. He raised the possibility of a palace coup, and said this would affect what happened in the tense times ahead.

"I have no real hope of the elections," he said. "We've always said they were a charade. What we need now is a constitutional conference to decide Nigeria's future."

He called on Britain to continue putting pressure on the Nigerian regime to ensure a return to democracy.

Nigeria has suffered a catastrophic decline under General Abacha. Its vast oil revenues have been squandered by the corrupt circle of top military and political leaders. Vital maintenance has been neglected so that the flow of oil has been sharply cut, and petrol is now in short supply. Agriculture has gone into decline, and a food-exporting country has become a food importer.

Nigerian exile sources said yesterday that the frontrunner in the race to succeed General Abacha is Major-General Adeusalam Abubakar, the Chief of the Defence Staff, who has a large power base in the military. Like the former head of state, General Ibrahim Babangida, he is a northerner from Niger state. Another



General Sani Abacha, the most brutal ruler in Nigerian history, who was reported to have died yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 54

possible successor is Lieutenant-General Jeremiah Useni, also a Hausa northerner.

Speaking for the European Union, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the EU

hoped there would be an opportunity for a stable transition and an early return to democracy. He called for elections "to an accountable civilian government".

One source said General Abacha's death derailed the move to even a symbolic civilian presidency.

Obituary, page 25

Apartheid regime had '007' lethal weaponry

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN CAPE TOWN

A FORMER military bio-engineer yesterday lifted the lid on apartheid's lethal chemical weapons projects, telling of poison, letter-bombs, exploding washing-powder boxes and a project to reduce the fertility of black women.

Jan Lourens, who said he helped to design and manufacture some of the weapons, was testifying before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Among items he was involved in making, he said, were special rings designed to hide poison, a walking stick with a poisoned tip, and another that allowed a poisoned ball to be shot into a victim's leg.

"Rather like a James Bond movie" he was asked. "Unfortunately, yes," Mr Lourens replied.

Mr Lourens said he did not know whether the weapons he helped to make were ever used on anyone. He told how in the late 1980s he was asked by his superior, Dr Wouter Basson, to take two vials and a poisoned screwdriver to a man named Trevor in London, whom he was to meet at a railway station. After the rendezvous, he was taken to a cottage near Ascot where he demonstrated how the mechanism worked.

Settlers kick Arabs in tussle over Jerusalem homes

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



A Peace Now protester is removed by Israeli police

MILITANT Jewish settlers took over four more homes in an Arab neighbourhood of annexed east Jerusalem before dawn yesterday, causing clashes and intensifying the Arab-Jewish struggle over the disputed sector of the Holy City.

The senior PLO official in the city, Faisal al-Husseini, was slightly hurt when he joined angry Palestinians and Israeli left-wing peace activists in confronting the settlers, who claimed legal titles to the buildings.

Israeli police and soldiers were sent in to disperse the

protesters and ended up dragging away members of the Israeli Peace Now movement. The clashes were the latest in a series of confrontations in east Jerusalem, where both sides accuse each other of trying to grab territory.

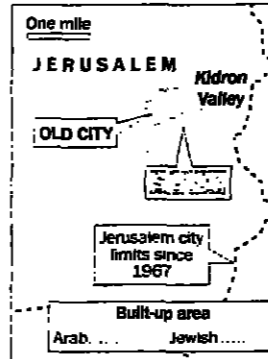
David Bar-Ilan, Communications Director to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, claimed that members of the right-wing Jewish Elad group had bought the homes legally from Arab owners. "This is an absolutely legal transaction," he said of the takeover of the homes in the Silwan neighbourhood.

Yehuda Amali, an Elad spokesman, said: "There were legal discussions for many

years ... and a few months ago the courts decided in our favour." But, as settlers kicked Arabs who tried to block their path, Fatma Karateen, 62, a Palestinian, claimed to have papers showing that one of the homes belonged to her family.

"I will surrender my life before I surrender my house," she shouted.

Even before the violence erupted, tension in east Jerusalem was at boiling point after another group of Jewish settlers last month illegally erected prefabricated buildings near Herod's Gate. They were pulled down, but that contested site has now been turned into an Israeli-run archaeological dig in which



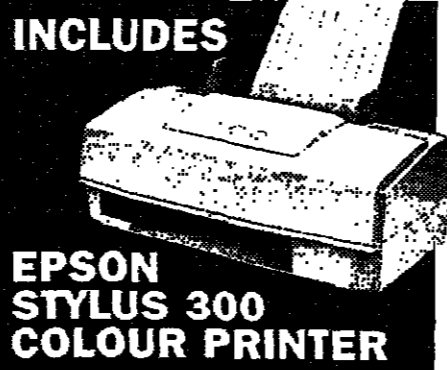
threats from fellow Arabs. Silwan, which Israeli forces captured from Jordan in 1967, is revered by Jewish settlers as the site where King David built the first capital of the Jewish people. Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, spoke of "grave consequences" if the 15 new Jewish residents were not removed.

Tension in east Jerusalem increased further yesterday when the Tel Aviv paper *Yedioth Aharonot* revealed that the Israeli Ministry of Education was planning to alter the curriculum in publicly owned Arab schools to place a greater emphasis on Jewish history.

Letters, page 23

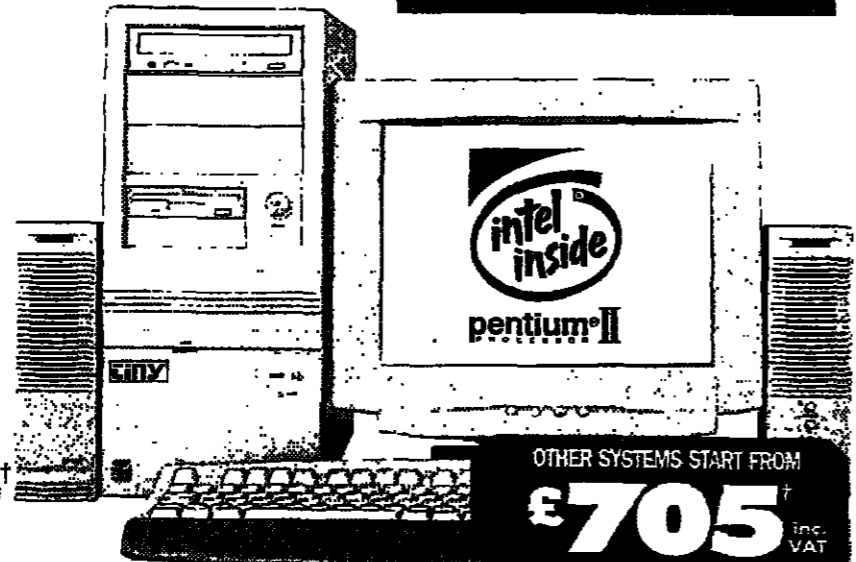
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WORLD IN BRIEF

Gore links El Niño to record heat

Washington: El Niño contributed to the breaking of global temperature records in the first five months of this year. Al Gore, the Vice-President, announced yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes).

A report by US government scientists said global warming appeared to exacerbate the effects of El Niño, which have included both droughts and heavy rains. Mr Gore is seeking legislation from Congress to curb "greenhouse gas" emissions.

MIGs collide

Prague: Two MIG 21s of the Czech Air Force collided and showered debris over a residential area, injuring two civilians and setting cars on fire. The crews of the two jets ejected. (Reuters)

Murder charge

Windhoek: Thoman Florin, 36, a German hotelier and pig farmer living in Namibia, was held on a murder charge after his wife's cooked bones and skull were found in the ceiling of their house. (AP)

Fighting spreads

Bissau: Fighting between rebel and loyalist soldiers spread to a garrison at Mansoa, north of Guinea-Bissau's capital, where at least ten people were killed on Sunday night. (AFP)

Rebels kill pupils

Kampala: Ugandan rebels killed 50 civilians in two attacks near Fort Portal in the western Kabarole district, officials said. Most of the dead were children, a military source said. (AFP)

Bee road hazard

Bucharest: Millions of bees forced the closure of a national Romanian highway for a third day after a truck transporting 130 beehives overturned and the bees started attacking drivers. (AP)

Americans bid farewell to Mir

Houston: The space shuttle Discovery pulled away from Mir last night after four days of joint flight, marking the end of America's three-year partnership with the Russian space station and the transition into a new era: the international space station. "We're looking forward to working with you again."

Charles Precourt, the shuttle commander, told his Mir counterpart, Talgat Musabayev, before Discovery left for a Florida landing on Friday. Aboard was Andrew Thomas, the last of seven US astronauts to live on the space station. He had been there for 130 days. In an emotional last gathering, astronauts and cosmo-

nauts exchanged handshakes and hugs before closing the linking hatches. Mr Musabayev presented Mr Precourt with the huge wrench that had been used in spacewalks outside Mir and is to be flown to the international space station. "It's sort of a relay stick," Mr Musabayev said.

Some accounts with high interest rates can soon prove to be a letdown. 7.25% GUARANTEED to match rises in Base Rate. You'll see plenty of adverts for savings accounts offering bumper rates of interest but it's not until you read the small print that you realise that many are destined to drop after a few months. Others have so many restrictions on withdrawal you'd be as well putting your money in a long term notice account.

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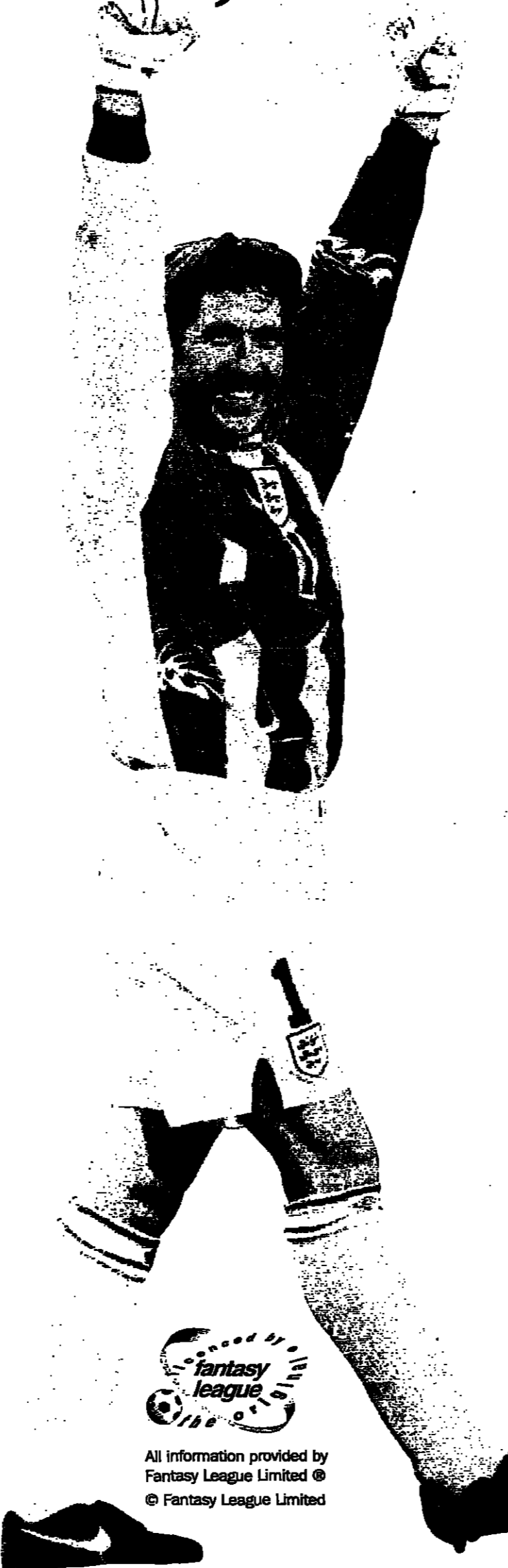
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Vertical text on the left margin: Apartheid regime had... lethal weaponry... homes... are well to Mir... accounts... gh interest... es can... rove to be... tdown... 25...

'I was too young to be impotent'

The path to sexual happiness is not necessarily scattered with Viagra capsules. Anjana Ahuja and Dr Thomas Stuttford report on the wide range of remedies for a condition that affects many men

James Hutton, an accountant from Croydon, south London, was impotent for four years before he sought help. "Half the time I couldn't get an erection, and the rest of the time I couldn't sustain it," he says. "Although my wife was very understanding, I felt that I was too young to let it happen."

A year ago, on the recommendation of a friend, the 60-year-old consulted Dr Shiva Kumar, an expert in Ayurveda, an Indian system of alternative medicine. Dr Kumar told Mr Hutton to cut down on fatty foods, take two Pro-long tablets twice a day, and avoid sexual intercourse for two months, to allow the herbal medication to work. After a period of abstinence, he was given an oil to massage into the penis an hour before intercourse. "After two-and-a-half months my desire became stronger," Mr Hutton says. "I got a bigger erection and my anxiety disappeared. Needless to say, my wife is very happy."

Mr Hutton is one of many men who have found that the path to sexual happiness is not necessarily scattered with Viagra capsules. Other orthodox treatments include penile implants, injections, suction pumps (which suck blood into the penis) and pellets that can be inserted into the tip of the penis before sex.

If these sound frightening, there are gentler offerings from the world of alternative medicine, such as breathing techniques and herbal potions. Another option is to seek counselling, psychotherapy or hypnotherapy, all of which explore possible psychological reasons for this most intimate of problems.

Impotence, defined as the inability to achieve or maintain an erection, affects most men at some point during their lives. One in ten cases is caused by an underlying physical condition, such as diabetes, or as a side-effect of certain drugs: psychological factors, such as anxiety or depression,

account for the rest. Impotence is more common in older men, because of changes in blood circulation and, occasionally, because levels of testosterone, the male sex hormone, begin to fall off.

The Hale Clinic in London advises sufferers to consider homeopathy, acupuncture, hypnosis or psychotherapy. It also recommends Buteyko, a shallow breathing technique which derives its names from the Russian doctor who developed it. More normally used to treat asthma, patients taught Buteyko have, according to Theresa Hale, the clinic's director, reported that their libido improved. Homeopathic preparations depend on the underlying cause. Men whose desire for sex is tempered by a fear of failure, are thought to benefit from lycopodium, whereas conium is said to help to maintain an erection.

Chinese medical practitioners can prepare herbal remedies for the root cause of impotence. Dr Yilan Shen, from Chinese Herbal Medicine and Health Care, based in Surrey, says that the preparations must be tailored according to age.

Brian, 63, regained his ability to make love after being prescribed Chinese herbal tablets for his diabetes. "I have always preferred the Chinese approach, because Western medicine treats the symptoms rather than the cause," he says.

"The doctor took my pulse, and said I had an energy blockage. I was given a course of tablets and herbs, primarily for the diabetes. But I noticed an improvement straight away. I managed to get a stiffer, bigger erection that went on for longer. It is a temporary effect, so when I am having problems I take another tablet."

When Nigel, 39, noticed that his interest in sex was waning, and that his erections were not as firm as before, he consulted his GP. "When I told him the problem, he couldn't look me in the eye," he recalls. "He



Most men experience impotence at some point, and relationships can suffer if the condition becomes long-term

suggested Relate, the marriage guidance counsellors, but that wasn't the problem. In fact, when I mentioned to my wife that I thought my erections were different, she thought I was crazy."

A blood test at the Chelsea Medical Centre showed his testosterone level fell just short

of the minimum normal level. Three testosterone injections pushed his hormone count back up; Nigel noticed a difference within weeks: "My wife certainly noticed a change, and says it's much better for her. My erections are much firmer, and I can perform sexually how I used to perform 15 years ago. We now make love four times a week, whereas before it was once a month."

"It's a massive weight off my mind, because I am so young. I think I caught the problem early. And I have a more positive attitude to life and my business now." He takes two Restandol tablets a day to maintain his testosterone levels.

Another young patient of the Chelsea Medical Centre, a quietly spoken 29-year-old called Robert, is a classic example of how anxiety and worry can affect sexual performance. "I wasn't terribly experienced, and when I met someone we began having

problems," Robert says. "I had difficulty sustaining an erection, and also tended to ejaculate prematurely. The relationship began to suffer and my confidence."

He approached the centre after seeing a magazine advertisement — he was too embarrassed to see his GP — and was prescribed a course of sexual therapy. This comprised exercises in both deep breathing (for relaxation) and penile muscle control (to help to prevent premature ejaculation), counselling and, most startlingly, practical therapy sessions in which Robert was encouraged to practise his sexual technique on a "sexual training partner" under supervision. Some sessions, he says, ended in sexual intercourse.

"The first session involves massage, then you touch each other, and it goes on from there," Robert says. "At first you feel a bit uncomfortable,

but they are very good at putting you at your ease. You practise having sex with people, which gives you more experience and more confidence."

However, Robert says he valued the counselling most. "It was definitely a mental problem with me. We went through a lot of stuff about why I was anxious, why I had low self-esteem, and why I wasn't happy with myself. I learnt to get rid of the negative thoughts." He is now in a happy relationship.

Robert attended the School of ICASA Enhanced Sexuality, run by the Chelsea Medical Centre (ICASA stands for Inward Confidence and Sensual Awareness). David Brown, who runs both organisations with his wife Jane, believes it is the only centre in the country where men can have "sexual training".

"If the man does not have a partner, he practises with a sexual training partner provided by the school. Mr Brown points out that this kind of training was used by Masters and Johnson, the great sex therapists, and continues to be employed around the world."

"Men can only attend the school if a clinical psychologist thinks it is appropriate," Mr Brown says. "They can then learn all the things they have been taught about sex and discover their inner confidence. They are monitored as they go through a step-by-step guide and, for some men, that will inevitably involve intercourse because they will want to know whether they ultimately have control over their own sexuality. It's like teaching someone how to ride a bike or how to swim."

• Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain, 0171-370 2255, Hale Clinic, 0171-631 0156, Chinese Herbal Medicine and Health Care, 0181-643 4222, Chelsea Medical Centre, 0700 010303

THE LAZARUS DRUGS

In the past five years, doctors have been rebutting Leonardo da Vinci's observation, and have overturned one of the rules of nature. Leonardo said: "The penis does not obey the command of its master, who tries to erect or shrink at will, whereas instead the penis erects freely while its master is asleep."

Viagra sildenafil and alprostadil, whether by injection or insertion into the organ, have proved him wrong. Leonardo may also have been a better inventor than physiologist for although a sleeping healthy young man has erections which last 20 minutes every hour and a half, if impotence becomes established, and if there is a physical cause for it, nocturnal erections cease.

A random selection of Massachusetts men between the ages of 40 and 70 showed that more than half had problems with their erections. For 17 per cent the trouble was minimal, but 25 per cent reported a moderate degree of difficulty, and 10 per cent were, in the old terminology, totally impotent. The older the man, the more likely he was to have erectile dysfunction, the number who were totally impotent tripled between the ages of 40 and 70 and those who had erectile problems but still managed intercourse from time to time doubled over the same age span.

Modern medication may now either improve a poor erection so that penetration becomes possible or if not it may produce some rewarding response, even if it is not entirely adequate. Alprostadil (trade names: Coverject, Virudal, and Prostin VR) are injected into the penis, whereas Muse, also alprostadil, is inserted as a small soluble pellet. These pellets don't retain their power at room temperature so the modern man over 40 may need to install a fridge into his medicine chest. Viagra, taken in tablet form, has transformed the sexual expectations of the ageing male. Its physiological action is different.

The discouraging news is that there is no easy answer to erectile dysfunction. The good news is that within the medicine chest there are now these three useful medications and that with careful selection it is likely that something can be found to help most men. A combination of Viagra with Muse which, because their action is different, can be complementary, is now being tried with some considerable success but further research is needed. Which man needs

what medication? It is claimed that Viagra produces a response in between 70 and 90 per cent of men but it doesn't have any effect unless the man is sexually excited. It has a wide variety of side effects: about 12 per cent of people suffer a headache, 9 per cent develop a flushed face, 5 per cent indigestion (sometimes with diarrhoea) and about 2 per cent nasal congestion. It also has the interesting effect of giving a blue haze to vision in 3 per cent of patients.

One and a half million prescriptions for Viagra have been issued in America and six people have died there after taking it. There is no evidence that they died from Viagra — the most likely explanation is that either the deaths were pure chance or that they died from a combination of age and the excitement of unaccustomed sexual intercourse.

On no account should Viagra be used by patients who are taking nitrates, prescribed for some forms of heart disease, in whatever

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

form. The two together may cause a dangerously low blood pressure.

Although Viagra has proved effective for treating erectile dysfunction as a result, for instance, of diabetes, multiple sclerosis, arterial disease, and even after spinal injury, it has been less effective in countering impotence after pelvic surgery. Viagra may not always have the power of a Lazarus drug, capable of giving life where there is none, but it may fan a feeble flame and some men have had intercourse for the first time for 20 years.

Muse, the pellet inserted into the urethra, is less effective than alprostadil injections, particularly when the man is lying flat. Even so, Muse produces a reasonable response in 42 per cent of people. The nature of the erection produced by Muse or one of the alprostadils given by injection differs, the injections produce a "Concorde effect" whereas with Muse, the flow of blood is distributed more evenly but not so strongly. Insertion may be more acceptable than injection and removes the hazards of bruising and subsequent fibrosis.

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THE LAZARUS DRUGS



Jason Cowley, 8, in his winning strip

My (small) moment of World Cup glory

For a few months, during my childhood, I was considered something of a seer, a small-town clairvoyant, as it were. My two grandfathers would casually drop by to ask for racing tips, old aunts would ring my mother to ask if I could accompany them to afternoon bingo and Tuesday night was when my father and I sat down to do the football pools. At primary school, I spent many lunchbreaks reading palms, an eight-year-old dreaming up bizarre destinies for my friends; even the teachers eyed me with renewed respect. Looking back, I probably imagined that the reason for this attention was my success in a competition, organised by D.E.R., a TV rental company, to coincide with the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany. The rules were simple: you had to predict the two finalists and winning score, a month before the tournament began. I spent weeks on my entry, studying form and reading up on key players in every team. I was too young to remember the great Brazilian side of 1970, and was a baby when

As an eight-year-old, Jason Cowley successfully predicted the result of the 1974 World Cup. Now he gives his verdict for France '98

Bobby Moore lifted the World Cup in front of the Queen at Wembley. Still, football was my consuming interest and I was determined to win the competition. And I knew that the West Germans were strong and that Ajax Amsterdam were dominating European club competition. So, with the deadline approaching, I went for West Germany to beat Holland 2-1 in the final. My memories of the tournament are cloudy. I watched nearly every game on TV, but only snatches of action have stayed with me. I recall Zaire and Haiti being repeatedly thrashed; the expansive "total football" of the Dutch, with their extravagant midfielders Neeskens and Cruyff; another plucky failure from the Scots; and a bald bloke scoring many goals for Poland, who had dispatched England in the qualifying rounds. I recall, too, a game between East and

West Germany, played in torrential rain, and surprisingly won by the team from the East. The result was significant if West Germany had won, as expected, they would have met the Dutch in the next round, thus ruining my prediction. In the days leading up to the final, I felt isolated and confused: was I alone in England in wanting the Germans to win? The Dutch, you see, represented everything that was good in the game: they were flamboyant, progressive, skilful, a small nation. And the Germans? Well, they were Germans: dour, mechanical, efficient, humourless. I watched the final with my father and my best friend, Mike Barrett, on our newly-released D.E.R. colour television. My father, a child of the Blitz, was distastefully anti-German: as was, more bafflingly, Mike. The game was notable for two penalties, one to each side,

awarded by the English referee Jack Taylor. The first penalty, to Holland, was given within 90 seconds of the start after Cruyff was brought down. As Neeskens scored, my father punched the air, shouting out, "German swines". I was appalled by his disloyalty and, naively, by his language. I began to cry. This chastened my father, but not my friend: he giggled hysterically.

But I laughed last: the Germans equalised from a penalty, expertly taken by the perambulated, left-footed Paul Breitner; and won the game in the second half, Gerd Muller, turning sharply on the edge of the six-yard box to score through a thicket of defenders. It was a glorious moment when Franz Beckenbauer lifted the trophy. The next morning I discovered what my prize was: not a television, as my father hoped and expected, but a black and white West German kit. I was delighted. Yet as the months passed and the novelty of my win diminished, the kit proved more trouble than it was worth — I was accused by school friends of disloyalty and of being anti-English. In the end, I sullenly stopped wearing my West German kit but, as Mike Barrett never ceases to remind me, have worn my hair in Jürgen Klinsmann pudding basin-style ever since, a homage to Teutonic power.

Still, in the spirit of 1974, I'll sign off with my prediction for France '98. Holland to beat France 2-1 in the final, after extra time (the semi-finalists will be Brazil, Holland, France and England). This may seem a bizarre prediction; but the Dutch squad is as talented as any in the competition. The conflict between their black and white players, so ruinous during Euro '96, seems to have eased, and if Dennis Bergkamp can regain fitness they have a chance. But much depends on Bergkamp. You read it here first.

Undercover with a private eye

Sherlock Holmes would, I imagine, have been unimpressed by the banality of the workload of today's private detectives. Demand for their shady services is, nevertheless, as strong as ever. Flick through the pages of any business directory and under the heading "Private Detective", you will find several pages of firms and sole practitioners. Your modern-day super-sleuth, though, is unlikely to be unravelling plots such as those that intrigued Holmes and Hercule Poirot. He or she is far more likely to be dealing with mundane cases of marital infidelity, missing persons and commercial espionage. Frankie Campbell, a stocky Glaswegian in his late thirties, has been a private detective for eight years. Articulate and self-possessed, he became a "PI" after an approach from a friend — a solicitor — who thought he would be good because of his inquisitive and analytical mind. He is both sage and circumspect, as you might imagine a Scottish private detective to be. I found Frankie in the Yellow Pages, and after some cajoling on my part and some "checking out" on his, he agrees to let me accompany him on an assignment. We meet in Central London

the following night and head off to an address south of the river. Most famous fictional private detectives have their sidekicks: tonight that is my role. Frankie explains the background to the job. "It's a matrimonial case," he says. "Most are, these days." Frankie's client, who we will call David, had been "hit for a divorce petition by his wife 'Shelly'". She is demanding a substantial settlement from David, who has his own computer software business. Shelly is working as a PA to the director of a construction company but is claiming to be destitute and living with her parents, having moved out of the marital home because of their differences. David had become suspicious that there was another man because Shelly never seemed to be at her parents' when he called. "My first task was to establish whether there was any substance to David's suspicions," Frankie says. As Shelly had still been using her office

in the marital home, Frankie decided to bug their phone. From the conversations recorded by the bug, Frankie quickly established that there was indeed another man. He then set about tracing him. Armed with his name, he searched the electoral register and, cross-referencing to other information he had gleaned, was able to pinpoint his address — the smart three-storey Georgian house we were now approaching. "My job is to provide evidence that his wife has set up shop with her new boyfriend and that therefore she doesn't need the money from David to set up a new home," Frankie says. "To that end, I have videoed her car outside his house first thing in the morning and last thing at night. In addition, I have videoed her leaving his house and getting into her car in the morning and walking his dog in the evening, all activities you would expect from someone living at his home." Shortly after we arrive, a police car draws up and an

officer asks what we are doing. It is almost midnight. With impressive sang-froid, Frankie informs them that he is meeting a friend who is on his way from a pub a short distance away. The police move off, which is fortunate because moments later Shelly and her man friend emerge from the house with his dog. Frankie and his video-camera follow their every move: I hold up a copy of that day's newspaper, and our work is done. When Frankie feels he has enough evidence, he will give it to David and his solicitor. "It will be submitted to court and used as evidence," Frankie says. "Unless she backs down faced with the evidence against her." Frankie charges £30 an hour. One of the biggest factors in bringing work his way is paranoia. He has just spent three weeks following a husband, whose wife was convinced that he was having an affair with his secretary. "After three weeks following both the husband and the secretary, I came up with nothing and was convinced that there was no foundation to her suspicions."



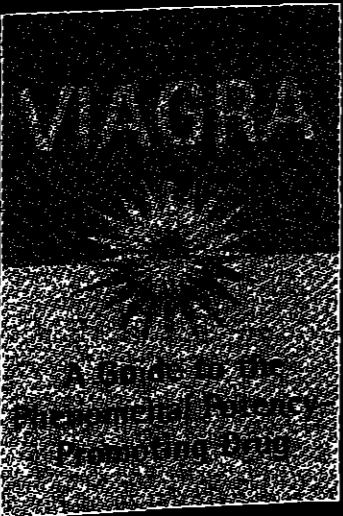
The world of a real-life private eye is nothing like the Hollywood version as portrayed by Bob Hoskins and Tom Berenger in *Shattered*

Despite the intrusive nature of his work, Frankie claims to have no qualms. "I don't have any problem with being a snoop," he says, however, that he will not work for someone he does not like. Protecting his identity is paramount. In March he was doing a job for a man who suspected his wife of having an affair with his best friend, a boxing promoter. Frankie was able to confirm his suspicions by bugging her telephone conversations. Unfortunately, when given the evidence, his client confronted his wife not only with the cassette, but also, apparently, with Frankie's personal details. She passed these to the boxing promoter who decided to get even. "Two extremely heavy-looking guys turned up at my door looking for me," Frankie says. "I had to bolt out of a rear window and didn't return home for a week." Most of his clients he describes as "pretty decent" people who are in some kind of "antagonistic situation" and who want a competent ally. The problem is, he says with resignation, "most of my clients just aren't interesting. Most of the time I end up taking on boring jobs I'd rather not be doing."

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OP

Rebranding Europe as postmodern

Timothy Garton Ash wonders if the EU is ready for a Demos makeover

"Slick branding ain't where it's at," said a director of Interbrand Newell and Sorrell, the "identity and branding consultants", in their cool offices at — no joking — 4 Utopia Village, when launching a joint research project on Europe with the think-tank Demos. But, he went on, there might be some "quick wins" such as continuing to call the new single European currency, depending on what country it was in, the pound, mark or lira. This sounded very much like a branding trick to me.

changed. Before you can sell your product, you must have a good product to sell. But then I think of the Spice Girls, and wonder if this is too old-fashioned a view.

Mr Leonard offers seven "stories": "narratives" or "mission statements" for "a real people's Europe". These are: "solutions united" (cross-border problems require cross-border solutions); "community of knowledge"; "the travelling Continent"; "urban hymns" (the EU should concentrate less on the common agricultural policy and more on the cities where most people live); "solidarity"; "the good life" (defined as "sun, sea, olive oil, wine, chocolates, beer and holidays"); and "the European mosaic" (that is, Europe as a continent of diversity).

But these seven "stories" are of very different kinds. It is quite unclear who exactly will tell them to whom, or how they relate to the major current projects of EMU and enlargement. Nor do they sit comfortably with each other. For example, if "solidarity" means anything, it means that richer Europeans have to give up some of their chocolates and wine so that poorer Europeans can have bread and a job. It's a very postmodern, very Demos idea that you can just advance these seven "stories" and then leave it there, without exploring how they relate logically to each other or practically to the real Union.

Starting with opinion polls and ending with presentational "stories", this study fits rather well into the last month of a British EU presidency which has been strong on mood-music and symbols but less so on hard policies. Moreover, our new Labour leaders have proved much closer in thought and action in the United States than to their counterparts in Paris, Bonn or Rome. Somehow I don't think European leaders will come away from the Cardiff summit with the Demos report in their inside pocket, and then revise their European policies accordingly, or even the way they present them. So, to adapt Pirandello's famous title, these will remain seven stories in search of a narrator.

Mr Leonard argues that people — even Britons — like the real Europe of holidays in Provence or on the Costa del Sol, French wine, Italian fashion, German footballers and so forth. (The definition of "real" Europe is itself very British.) So, he says, the way to make them like the EU better is to "reconnect" the Union with this other Europe. But because I love London this does not mean I should have loved the Greater London Council. The place can be great and its institutions bad.

At one point, Mr Leonard says the EU is unpopular "because we have the wrong kind of European Union". But is this rebranding Europe or reforming it? He makes it clear that it is not just the advertising but the "product" EU itself that has to be

It's new. It's fun. All it needs is to get real as well



Of cabbages and princes

Charles makes us reflect, this time on food and genetics. His forte is our good fortune

We awoke yesterday morning to the sound of a grouchy man from the biotechnology industry saying that the Prince of Wales is mistaken: nothing wrong with genetically modified food, goodness no, mere superstition to suggest it, the public will only benefit, naturally...

switch away from intensive sow units to outdoor pigs living in tin huts like so many fat Sergeant Bilko; and the caricature rich-bastard farmer Brian in *The Archers* has decided to be nicer to hedgerows and ponds. In this changed climate it may be hard to remember how far out on a limb the Prince was going at the time he converted Highgrove.

I happen to remember it because we too were embarking on a humbler organic enterprise and I can tell you that there was great mockery afoot. The *Farmers Weekly*, these days moderate and fairly polite to the Soil Association, spoke sneeringly most weeks of "our organic brethren" and "muck and magic merchants".

On hearing this issue being given such public, high-profile argument, some of us sleepily punched the air and muttered: "God bless the Prince of Wales!" Splendid chap. He's at it again, doing what he always does best: quite literally (and in the best possible sense) worrying for Britain. This has always been his forte: not equipped by nature to be a dashing or romantic Prince, he has the sense to be a queuing one. There have been misjudgments — I raged against a foray into the difficult politics of state education — but when he sticks to his forte, he is unmatchable. His gift is to fret aloud, to challenge the arrogance of innovation and focus certain instinctive discomforts and fears of the layman. He faces the gears of ridicule on our behalf.

There was widespread mockery of the "misshapen" products of natural farming, and a prediction that the public would never want them. To get organically grown food you had to link up with some hand-knives co-op, or trudge up muddy drives like ours to buy frozen lamb from an equally freezing Portakabin, because supermarkets wouldn't bother. Government and European Community farming policy turned its back contemptuously on extensive, gentle use of farmland and invented set-aside instead, paying big landowners to waste tracts of land and intensify chemically enhanced production on the rest. There had always been rebels against the prevailing mindset, ever since Lady Balfour first stood out against the chemicalisation of farming; but they were a small, embattled, often rather inward-looking band. The Prince of Wales's partisanship helped to change all that. There is still a long way to go, and it could be that we need not go the whole way; but there is now a slightly better balance.

Perhaps now his strong views on genetic engineering — "taking mankind into realms that belong to God alone" — will pull off the same trick. At the moment, the march of this particular science has hardly met any tripwires. Already genetically modified maize and soya from the United States are on our shelves, unlabelled, as part of manufactured foods; only one retail chain bothers to exclude them. Our own ministers are under pressure from American friends to allow these crops to be grown here: despite worries from environmental agencies including English Nature, it seems quite likely that they will cave in quietly while we are all looking the other way. Perhaps if England win the Cup...

Libby Purves

Banks account

TONY BANKS, not normally associated with shrinking violets, mystified many people when he pulled out of a live radio debate with one of Labour's more robust tormentors. The Sports Minister cancelled his weekend appearance on Radio 4's *Any Questions* where he was to have



Labour first began to loathe Hitchens, a right-winger, after he hounded Kinnock, the party's then leader, over the "Jennifer's ear" episode during the 1992 election campaign. The journalist disclosed that the party's political broadcast about two young girls with earache had overlapped the shambling state of the NHS. His attempts to upset Labour continued in the run-up to the last general election: Blair became so infuriated with him that he told Hitchens: "We may not call you again".

DIARY

most rent asunder when reporters from north of the border arrived at the World Cup accreditation centre to discover they were described as coming from England. After tantrums, the error was rectified. Will this be Scotland's only success in the competition?

Radio ga-ga

IS THE Oxford Union dumbing down? The university debating society is linking up with Talk Radio, the station of choice for long-distance lorry drivers, insomniacs, security guards and cabbies, to broadcast live coverage of activities in the chamber on Thursday. James Whale, who will present and speak in the first such debate with Neil Hamilton, believes the shows will become a cult. The appalling Whale says: "People will discover the supposed *crème de la crème* of the upper classes are just like us." I doubt it. But fast journeys across London threaten to become even more tedious.

LA mode

BORED with London, Lynne Franks has begun her assault on Los Angeles. A month after her departure, the fizzy PR dame, believed to be the inspiration for Edina in *Absolutely Fabulous*, is planning to turn the city into a fashion Mecca to rival London, Milan, Paris and New York. "I am going to launch a big international fashion event," she tells me.

"The shows will draw on my experience of London fashion week, and be a celebration of LA style, embracing all the city's different ethnic elements and reaching out around the Pacific Rim." She hopes



local fashion gals and some of her darling friends from back home, such as Kate Moss (above), will saunter for the event. If any Brit can pull it off, I am sure Franks can.

Tempters of St James's

Michael Gove urges the RAC not to sell its assets and its soul

How much are your principles worth? Dr Faustus sold his soul for knowledge. Merton Densher in Henry James's *The Wings of the Dove*, pawned his heart for a fortune. Demi Moore, in *Indecent Proposal*, valued her virtue at a million dollars. The members of the Royal Automobile Club are preparing to offload their dignity next Friday — for £33,000 a piece.

The RAC is a curious, very English, institution in the curious, very English, world of clubland. Established just over a century ago, with a handsome clubhouse in Pall Mall, it offers its members the same cocktail of privacy and sociability, which Englishmen have found so attractive in so many other institutions, great and small.

Following an unseemly court hearing yesterday, the members will now be invited by their board to sell off part of their patrimony next week. If they vote to "transfer" the motoring services arm of their organisation they stand to gain more than £30,000 each. But they will have lost something far more precious.

To call an acquaintance "clubbable" is to recognise in him a talent for friendship for its own sake, a fondness for conversation as an end in itself, an intuition that man was a social animal before he became a calculating machine.

Clubs have developed their own rituals to celebrate and safeguard their identity as social, rather than commercial, institutions. Briefcases may not be carried or opened in the precincts, mobile telephones are surrendered at the door, of all the topics to be broached over drinks "shop" is strictly forbidden. These bylaws may appear to be mere anachronistic quaintness, but they serve a valuable purpose. They are a constant reminder to busy men that there are higher virtues than getting and spending.

The clubs of St James's, like the RAC, are the stately homes of these virtues but millions of citizens celebrate them when they meet as Rotarians, amateur dramatists or even at the 19th hole. If the clubs of Pall Mall are a landscaped English Eden then the Cruden Bay Golf Club is an allotment of the members of all the country's clubs may not realise it, by their participation in each institution's rituals they are keeping alive a distinction central to civilisation.

It is a distinction anatomised by the philosopher Michael Oakeshott but one which was instinctively appreciated before it was codified. Oakeshott distinguished between enterprise associations and civil associations, between arrangements entered into for a specific end and those which were enjoyed for themselves. It is the distinction between business and friendship, a deal and a conversation.

Microsoft, for all the paternalism of Bill Gates towards his employees, is an enterprise association with the goal of maximising shareholder value. The Ambridge Amateur Dramatic Society, for all Linda Snell's desire to make each performance a sell-out, is a civil association set up to cement the friendship of its members.

The RAC, for all the eagerness of its committee to maintain an operating surplus, remains a civil association. Or at least it will if the members reject the blandishments of the serpent in their Eden.

Rediscovering Europe, by Mark Leonard (Demos).

Friends of Suspenders. The group, from 16 countries, was formed to express regret at women replacing suspender belts with pantyhose.

Wheel spin. KEN LIVINGSTONE, that man of the people, has never learnt to ride a bicycle. I learn this news after the London mayoral wannabe, keen to show his green credentials, expressed an interest in joining Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, and 100 other MPs on today's mass cycle ride to the House but had to admit he would be defeated by gravity. To ensure Livingstone joins in, organisers spent much of yesterday searching desperately for a tricycle.

THE centuries-old alliance between France and Scotland was almost

TOADY award for the week. Sylvia McNair, a soprano, has commissioned a composer to turn Hillary Clinton's fine words into operatic songs. Will they include the refrain: "How could you Bill when you promised never again?"

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NEWS

Move to sell off air traffic control

John Prescott is preparing to allow private companies to run Britain's air traffic control service in a deal with Gordon Brown to free extra money for transport projects.

Au pair's mother accused of fraud

The trustees of the Louise Woodward defence fund are to hold an emergency meeting to consider the au pair's mother was accused of fraudulently claiming more than £9,000.

Third front opens

Ethiopia warned its citizens to move out of the town of Burie, 50 miles southwest of Asab, ahead of the opening of a third front in the war with Eritrea.

Suspects cleared

The wife and stepdaughter of businessman Richard Watson shot dead outside his home were cleared of his murder amid protests at a legal decision to drop the case against them.

McCartney mourned

About 700 family and close friends of Linda McCartney gathered to remember her life in London. Among the mourners were Ringo Starr and George Harrison.

Mother's right

Under new legislation women who have devoted their lives to being a homemaker will be able to claim a fair share of their husband's pension on divorce.

Student concession

David Blunkett appeared to have headed off a backbench revolt over student tuition fees with an assurance that vulnerable groups would receive support.

Genetic food fears

Millions of British consumers are being forced to eat genetically modified products because of poor labelling of food made from such crops.

Coach's colours

Coach Glen Hoddle's insistence on beige suits for England's World Cup squad is causing rumbles in the dressing room among players.

Final warning

The EU issued a final warning to Serbia to expect military intervention if it pursued its campaign of repression in Kosovo.

Hauliers' road rage

British hauliers promised French-style lorry blockades of roads to protest at the high cost of diesel. Their first "rolling blockade" action caused widespread jams on the M25 and M6.

Abacha dies

Nigeria was plunged into political turmoil with the sudden death of General Sani Abacha, the ruthless head of the military Government. He was said by his family to have suffered a heart attack.

Old Master case

Germany began action to recover a Dutch Old Master looted from a Thuringia art gallery in the final days of the Second World War. It surfaced in Moscow in the mid-1980s.

Jerusalem clash

Militant Jewish settlers clashed with Palestinians and members of the Peace Now group when they occupied four Arab homes in east Jerusalem.

Britons win on US stage

Britain won a haul of Tonys, the Broadway equivalent of the Oscars, for musicals set in pre-war Germany and cartoon Africa. Natasha Richardson and Alan Cumming won awards for the best leading actress and actor in Cabaret, while the stage version of The Lion King - music by Sir Elton John and Sir Tim Rice - won the award for the best musical.



A fan waits fruitlessly for play to start on the final day of the first Test between England and South Africa at Edegbaston. Page 53

BUSINESS

Banking: The Bank for International Settlements, the international banking regulator, blamed the Asian economic crisis on a "climate of excessive optimism" among both borrowers and lenders.

SPORT

Football: England won their first victory of the 1998 World Cup, when the election of Sepp Blatter as Fifa president transformed their hopes of staging the tournament in 2006.

ARTS

Bad vibes: Madness got back together for a few hours in Finsbury Park on Sunday, but Finley Quayle, second on the bill, was given a rough ride by hardcore Madness fans.

FEATURES

Sexual healing: The path to sexual happiness is not necessarily scattered with Viagra... there are other remedies for a condition that affects many men.

PENSIONS

A trade union is close to launching the first low-cost stakeholder pension in partnership with Scottish Mutual, the life insurer.

CRICKET

Rain washed out the final day of the first Test at Edegbaston, the second time in three Tests that a potential England victory has fallen foul of the weather.

CHRISTIAN ART

Twenty-five of the most vibrant icons in the Byzantine Museum in Athens have been brought to London for the six-month festival Greece in Britain.

NIGHT WATCH

Inspired by Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, Harry Stourton became a private eye for a night.

WH SMITHS

The high street retailer is to buy Bookshop.co.uk, the Internet book retailer, for £9.4 million.

MOTOR RACING

Michael Schumacher's victory in Canada will rank as one of the most impressive demonstrations of driving a Formula One car.

CHRISTIAN ART

Twenty-five of the most vibrant icons in the Byzantine Museum in Athens have been brought to London for the six-month festival Greece in Britain.

WORLD WINNER

As an eight-year-old, Jason Cowley successfully predicted the result of the 1974 World Cup. Now he gives his verdict for France '98.

MARKETS

The FTSE 100 rose 90.5 points to close at 6037.8. Sterling remained unchanged at 103.6 after a fall from \$1.6362 to \$1.6327 but a rise from DM2.9005 to DM2.9021.

RUGBY UNION

Lawrence Dallaglio is limiting himself to 35 matches next season after reaching agreement with Wasps' director of rugby Nigel Melville.

FESTIVAL BARGAIN

The Dresden Festival offers a binge of music, opera and dance, and no ticket costs more than £30.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

HOMES: The household that saw its service bills blown away by windpower.

INTERFACE

On line in the front line: How computers help to train troops in the rainforest of Belize.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Two 20-year-olds have formed a company to help people twice their age to break into information technology.

LAW

For richer: Are the days of rich pickings from legal aid numbered?

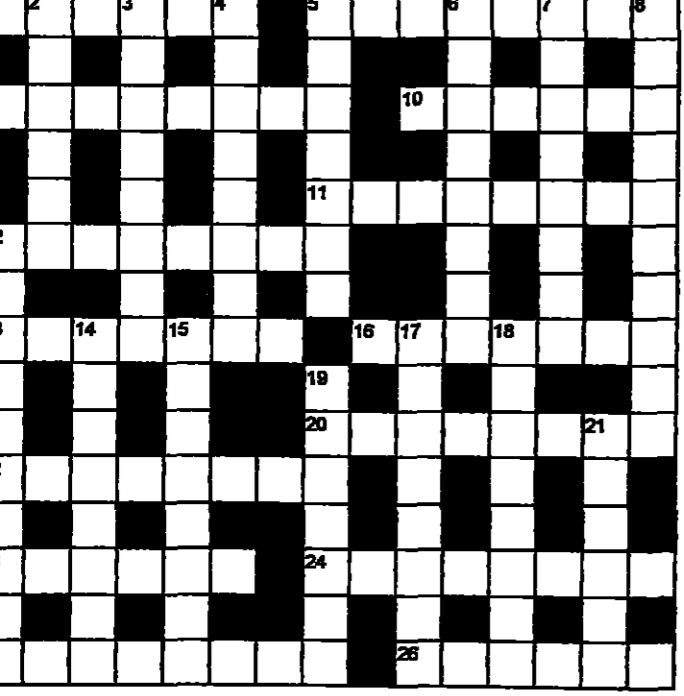
UNIONS

Two barristers assess Fairness at Work, the Government's White Paper on collective representation.

THE PAGES

The conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia is not a hard-to-police guerrilla war but a fully-fledged hot war, precisely the kind of situation in which conventional peace-keeping troops could be deployed.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,813



- ACROSS
1 Request a little money to get ring (6)
5 Threshold some animals crossing back (8)
9 Missile of reliable type used by flier (8)
10 Goggles used in flight, reportedly (6)
11 Relatively advantageous form of dishonesty (8)
12 Charming lake in rustic surroundings (8)
13 Surrendered after soldiers withdrew (7)
16 Firmly established like Elsie and her sisters? (4-3)
20 Cartographer marks with special care Western peak (8)
22 Desires better position in field (8)
23 Fellow's input to reflective model dissertation (6)
24 Taking steps to produce wine (8)
25 Instructing stown by notation in instrumental part (8)
26 Some hard nuts returning to Arctic wastes (6)
DOWN
2 Harbour with a lagoon opening to form grand entrance (6)
3 Avoid notice to prank (8)
4 Party time noted as being free from restraint (8)
5 Put wine in river - that eases the tension (7)
6 Helping almost everyone, within reason (8)
7 Spell in America brought to an end (8)
8 Chips, say, after serving expert (4,6)
12 In which circulation through the grounds is facilitated (10)
14 Gives tips to barmen (8)
15 Lining up in the army for treatment of wounds (8)
17 First story on way getting attention for a start (8)
18 One laden awkwardly is put under pressure (6,2)
19 Assigned place in media broadcast when article is dropped (7)
21 Means to get in with leading batsman (6)

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HAVERICK DADAIST

ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Table with columns for region, road number, and weather/road conditions.

WEATHER BY FAX

Table listing weather forecasts for various locations like London, Manchester, etc.

WORLD CITY WEATHER

Table listing weather conditions for 153 world cities.

MOTORING

Table listing motoring information by country.

HOURLY DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

FORECAST

General rain in western England, Wales and Northern Ireland will clear to brawny showers. Eastern and southern England will be cloudy, with some heavy rain clearing to blustery showers.

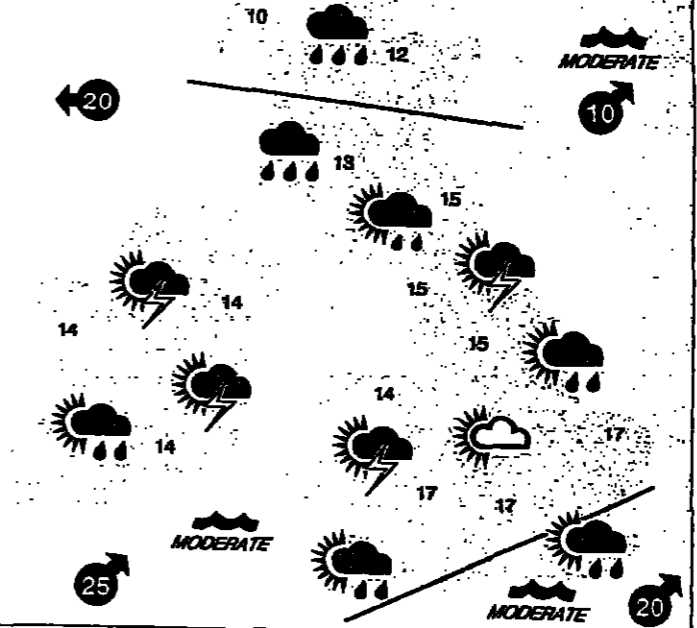
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and precipitation.

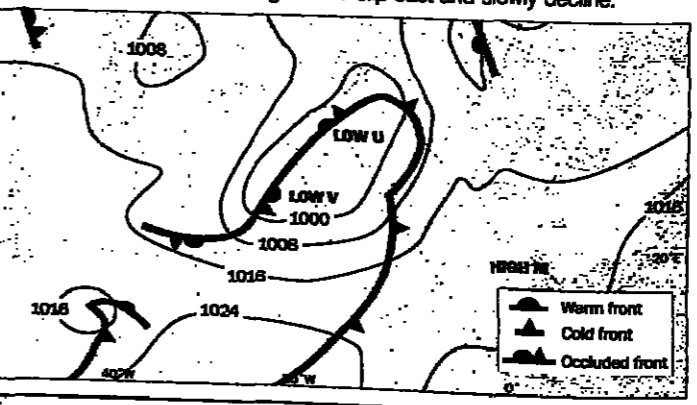
ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low U will run north and deeper; low V will move quickly east and fill. High M will slip east and slowly decline.



HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Collyer, Norfolk, 19C (85F); lowest day max: Sofia, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Gwynedd, 0.91in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 8.9hr.

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Generally avoid term unless I can't

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JUNE 9 1998

Scottish Mutual in line to run new pension

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH MUTUAL, the life insurer owned by Abbey National, is close to launching a prototype low-cost stakeholder pension with one of the UK's biggest trade unions.

The Amalgamated Engineering & Electrical Union (AEEU) has secured approval for the first of the new-style schemes from the office of John Denham, the Pensions Minister.

Mr Denham is keen to encourage industry-wide stakeholder pensions run by unions and charities to supplement the basic state pension for self-employed people and those in casual jobs.

After working on the scheme for 18 months the AEEU, the fourth biggest union in the UK with 725,000 members, has drawn up a shortlist of insurers to run it. Standard Life and Scottish Mutual are believed to be at the top of the list, with the latter thought most likely to win the contract.

The new pension will be unveiled at the AEEU's biennial conference in Blackpool next week. It will be launched before the Government publishes its Green Paper on stakeholder pensions this autumn, but the consultations with Mr Denham have ensured it meets the required cost and flexibility standards.

The minimum monthly contribution will be £40 and the annual management fee will be a maximum of 1 per cent of contributions. The more traditional charging structure is 1 per cent of the individual's fund.

Julian Richards, AEEU deputy head of research, said: "The Government gave the scheme the green light now rather than letting us wait two years for the stakeholder pension and have our members miss out on two years' of contributions."

Commentary, page 31

Code	Company Name	Price	Change
875	BP	172.5	+
876	BT	150.0	+
877	British Airways	120.0	+
878	British Telecom	150.0	+
879	British Petroleum	172.5	+
880	British Airways	120.0	+
881	British Telecom	150.0	+
882	British Petroleum	172.5	+
883	British Airways	120.0	+
884	British Telecom	150.0	+
885	British Petroleum	172.5	+
886	British Airways	120.0	+
887	British Telecom	150.0	+
888	British Petroleum	172.5	+
889	British Airways	120.0	+
890	British Telecom	150.0	+
891	British Petroleum	172.5	+
892	British Airways	120.0	+
893	British Telecom	150.0	+
894	British Petroleum	172.5	+
895	British Airways	120.0	+
896	British Telecom	150.0	+
897	British Petroleum	172.5	+
898	British Airways	120.0	+
899	British Telecom	150.0	+
900	British Petroleum	172.5	+

Red alert: European banks have been criticised for ignoring the warning signs that preceded the free-fall on South-East Asian equities markets

Europe's banks attacked over role in Asian crisis

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND RICHARD MILES

THE Bank for International Settlements, the international banking regulator, has launched a scathing attack on the role of European banks in creating the Asian financial crisis and called on the sector to do more to help solve the region's problems.

The BIS, which is governed by representatives from leading central banks including Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, accused the banking sector of having "generally ignored the mounting problems in Asia".

In its annual report published yesterday, it implored commercial banks "to take some responsibility for the ongoing provision of credit to customers to whom they had previously lent all too freely".

The BIS suggests that governments struggling with a future financial crisis might consider forcing the banking sector's hand by making a "unilateral stay on payments". The report argues that with the support of the International Monetary Fund, this policy

would be an effective means of bringing the banks to the negotiating table earlier.

The report singles out European banks for criticism, claiming they dashed into Asia in search of high returns in an attempt to offset low returns in their domestic markets.

In this climate of "excessive optimism" banks ignored the warning signals, "including, in some cases, warning signals from within the banks themselves" and rapidly increased their exposure.

The BIS calculates that between 1995 and the outbreak of the crisis last year, European bank lending accounted for more than half of total new lending to the region.

UK banks with exposure to Asian markets shrugged off the criticism. HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank, and Standard Chartered both rejected allegations that they had lent money in the region because of poor returns in their domestic markets.

At its year end, HSBC, the largest UK player in Indonesia, made a general provision of £175 million against potential losses in South-East Asia. Its exposure to the country is \$1.8 billion. Standard Chartered has an exposure of £1 billion to Indonesia. Neither has deemed it necessary to lift their provisions.

Alfonso Verplaetse, the BIS chairman, said further research was vital to establish why banks ignored the danger signs in Asia.

"Consider how the market for years ignored the existence of BIS international banking data which clearly indicated the potential for liquidity problems in Asia," he said.

Even now it was not clear that the banks had learnt from the experience. He pointed to a marked fall in the borrowing costs levied on non-Asian borrowers this year.

However, the BIS does not blame commercial banks solely for over-lending, pointing to the tendency of the region's governments to offer guarantees for loans to their already over-stretched domestic banks. It added that there could also be a deep-seated risk problem where international banks were lending sums that appeared relatively small in terms of their balance sheets but were of a "dangerous size" for the recipients.

Commercial bank help in solving the region's crisis was needed to ensure not just that the banks paid for their lending mistakes but to provide support for the dangerously over-stretched public sector rescue attempts.

Traders attributed the yen's weakness to the continuing robustness of the US economy and persisting pessimism about Japan's economy and financial system.

Hikaru Matsunaga, the Finance Minister, said: "We are ready to take decisive steps [to halt the yen's slide]." Japan would not tolerate a level over 140 yen to the dollar, he added.

YEN AT ITS LOWEST FOR SEVEN YEARS

THE yen fell to a seven-year low against the dollar yesterday after Japan reported a tenfold increase in its trade surplus in the first 20 days of May, caused by a collapse in imports (Robert Whyman writes from Tokyo).

Japan's Finance Ministry said the surplus jumped to 360.9 billion yen (£1.59 billion) from 34.9 billion yen in the same period of the previous year. Imports were down 14.3 per cent. The trade surplus for fiscal 1998 is now forecast to surge 9.3 per cent to 14.88 trillion yen, the second highest on record, with weak

domestic demand undermining imports. The yen's slide continued yesterday, with the dollar climbing above 140 yen in Tokyo for the first time since June 1991.

Traders attributed the yen's weakness to the continuing robustness of the US economy and persisting pessimism about Japan's economy and financial system.

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WH Smith buys online book business for £9.4m

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

WH SMITH, Britain's largest bookseller, has bought Europe's leading online book business, the Internet Bookshop, for £9.4 million.

The deal is expected to spur competition in the burgeoning Internet book market. It comes hard on the heels of the purchase by Amazon, the Seattle-based discounter, of Bookpages, the Internet Bookshop's nearest rival.

stocks 1.4 million titles and also sells CDs and videos. Books, videos and CDs have been among the most successful products to be sold on the Internet. Verdict, the consultancy, expects Internet sales to account for up to 13 per cent of the UK book market by 2010.

WH Smith is paying 265p per share for the business, which is listed on Ofex, the junior share market. It will pay £8.8 million for the shares and £600,000 for options. The management will stay on. Richard Handover, chief executive of WH Smith, said the price was based on what it would cost to set up a similar business from scratch. He expects WH Smith to sell £4 million of books on the Internet this year.

Darryl Manocks, who founded the Internet Bookshop and then resigned this year after falling out with the rest of the board, will pick up about £3.6 million from the deal. Fellow investor James Blackwell, part of the Blackwell's academic book family, will collect a similar amount.



Handover: sales forecast

Biotech concern mounts as shares go at discount

BY PAUL DURMAN

A LARGE shareholder in British Biotech yesterday baled out of the troubled drug development company by selling 12.46 million shares at a substantial discount to the prevailing market price.

The sale of a 1.9 per cent stake for 42p a share was recorded just three minutes before the stock market closed yesterday afternoon. In accepting 42p, the unknown seller has taken a lower price than that at which British

Biotech floated in 1992. Two years ago, the Oxford company was briefly worth £2 billion when its shares surged above 350p.

The sale is the latest indicator of investors' loss of faith in British Biotech. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the company's own broker, has valued its shares at only 43p each.

Some well-placed observers are concerned that a false market has developed in British Biotech's shares, because some investors have much more information about the

poor results from cancer and pancreatic drugs trials. As *The Times* reported yesterday, some industry experts who have seen data from the most advanced cancer trial believe there is little or no chance of marimastat, the British Biotech drug, being effective in pancreatic cancer. One senior executive said: "The marimastat arms [of the pancreatic cancer study] look almost like placebo arms — there's no or little effect."

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NHP pays £39m for care homes

Nursing Home Properties, the AIM-listed property group that specialises in sale and leaseback, yesterday splashed out £39 million on 19 care homes with a total of 1,186 beds.

The deal brings to 146 the number of homes that Nursing Home Properties has bought. The 8,024 beds cost about £272 million. The company now has 20 operator tenants. The shares remained unchanged at 159½p.

Acal ahead

Acal, electronics distributor, raised pre-tax profits by 5 per cent to £10.3 million in the year to March on sales up 7 per cent to £160 million. Earnings rose 7 per cent to 32.8p out of which the total dividend goes up 14 per cent to 10.9p.

Critchley up

Critchley Group, the electrical equipment group, raised pre-tax profits from £8.5 million to £9.6 million in the year to end March on sales up 9 per cent to £50 million. Earnings rose from 35.8p to 41.0p, with the dividend up from 12.50p to 14.25p.

Stirling grows

Stirling Group, which supplies clothes to Marks & Spencer, raised pre-tax profits by 29 per cent to £6.6 million on sales up 13 per cent to £115 million. Earnings rose from 3.86p to 5.39p, with a total dividend of 2.5p, up from 2.3p.

Waterfall gain

Waterfall Holdings, the AIM-listed leisure group, raised pre-tax profits by 70 per cent to £1.6 million on sales up 39 per cent to £8 million in the six months to April 5. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 2.3p. There is no dividend.

Young call

Young & Co, the London brewer, faces a call at its annual meeting next month from Guinness Peat Group, a 17 per cent shareholder, to simplify its share structure and to seek powers to buy back shares.

British Land confident of further growth in market

By RICHARD MILES

BRITISH LAND, the property company, said yesterday that there was plenty of potential left in the commercial real estate market, despite record growth in valuations last year.

The firm said both capital and rental values were continuing their upward trend. "The traditional twin bogeys of inflation coupled with over-development have not eventuated, nor has unsatisfied demand pushed rents to excessive levels," it said.

Despite a series of adverse tax changes, 12 months of record growth in the commercial property sector helped to lift net assets per share at British Land by 24 per cent to 592p. However, the results failed to please the City, where the consensus forecast was 600p, and dealers marked the shares down 4½p to 665½p against a rising market.

John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, said the net asset value would have far exceeded targets at 628p but for changes to advance corporation tax (ACT) and March's increase in stamp duty.

He said: "The arbitrary rises in stamp duty, coupled with the effect of the advance corporation tax changes driving our preference share conversion, cost shareholders some 36p per share."

March 31 grew 39 per cent to £172.2 million, surpassing forecasts of up to £105 million. Total funds under management rose to £6.7 billion. British Land said it would pay a final dividend of 6.73p, taking the total dividend for the year to 9.8p, an increase of 8.9 per cent. But shareholders will have to wait until April 6, next year, because ACT will not be payable from that date.

"To compensate shareholders for this later payment date, the rate of increase in the dividend has been enhanced from 5.1 per cent to 8.9 per cent," the company said. Impatient shareholders are being offered a scrip alternative, payable on July 29.

Selwyn Jones, a property analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities, said the results were "a shade disappointing", but stressed the high quality of British Land's portfolio. About 40 per cent of its estates are in the City of London, with roughly the same amount in retail sites.

Retail warehousing showed the strongest growth in valuations during the 12 months, up by 18.8 per cent. City offices rose 13.6 per cent (6.9 per cent), while West End offices were up 16 per cent, more than three times the previous year's growth.

Pre-tax profit for the year to



John Ritblat said tax and stamp duty changes hit shares

Retail sales hit as output inflation stays at zero

By ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is facing fresh criticism over its decision to raise interest rates after new data showed retail sales growth slowing sharply in May while core factory gate inflation pressure has fallen to its lowest levels in more than 30 years.

Annual high street sales growth slipped from 5.7 per cent in April to 3.7 per cent, according to the British Retail Consortium sales monitor, which is published today.

The BRC said the improved May weather had boosted sales of clothing and footwear but there were clear signs of a fall-off in spending on large ticket items. The less volatile quarterly rate of growth was static at 3.1 per cent.

Separate data revealed that core output inflation — which excludes food, drink, tobacco and petrol — was unchanged in May from April, leaving the annual rate also at zero, the lowest rate since June 1967.

Overall output prices increased by just 0.1 per cent with the annual rate slipping to 0.9 per cent from 1 per cent in May. However, there was an unexpected 0.3 per cent monthly rise in raw material prices which was blamed on a jump in oil prices.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rio Tinto arm buys £245m US coal assets

RIO TINTO, the resources company, yesterday announced the \$400 million (£245 million) acquisition of coal assets in America. The company's Kenecott Energy subsidiary is to buy Kerr-McGee Corporation's Jacobs Ranch coalmine in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. The mine produces 24 million tonnes of coal a year for the domestic US electricity generating market. All of the 1998 coal production from the mine is contracted to buyers and this is expected to continue for a further two years.

Hefty fall for 600 Group

THE 600 Group, the machine tools manufacturer, blamed a 68 per cent fall in profits on poor sales in the UK and Far Eastern pressures affecting its markets. Pre-tax profits were £9.89 million, from £30.7 million, for the year to March 31.

Nabisco takes \$406m hit

NABISCO, the cereal and snacks manufacturer, is taking a \$406 million (£254 million) charge against restructuring in the second quarter. The company expects to reap annual savings of more than \$100 million, closing some factories, streamlining others, and sharply increasing promotional spending. The restructuring relates largely to Nabisco's domestic operations in America, although a detailed assessment of its worldwide operations continues and further charges may be needed later in the year.

Alba sustains progress

SHARES in Alba rose 20p to 215p after the household appliance group reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £9.7 million to £12.6 million for the year to the end of March. Sales rose from £186 million to £256.6 million and earnings from 15.1p to 18.7p. Total dividend rises from 6p to 6.5p after payment of a 5.10p final. John Harris, the chairman, said: "The progress has been maintained in the current year and will, I believe, continue. We fully intend to be involved in... product areas that are being developed."

Umeco signs Rolls deal

UMECO, the specialist distribution and engineering company, has signed a distribution deal with Rolls-Royce, the aero engines manufacturer. Pattonair Logistics, a new Umeco division, is to be the service provider for a wide range of parts to Rolls-Royce's UK sites. Umeco announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.4 million from £2.5 million for the year to the end of March. Earnings were 19.1p a share (15.5p) and a final dividend of 4.9p a share lifts the total to 7p (5.5p).

SFL buys UK property

SOCIETE FONCIERE Lyonnaise, one of the largest property companies on the Paris Bourse, is moving into the UK real estate market with the £12.6 billion (£260 million) purchase of the property assets of Exor, a company controlled by Fiat's Agnelli family, which includes a half share in European Prime Properties. EPP is a joint-venture with Grosvenor Estate Holdings owning three properties in Central London and three in Paris.

Highland Hotels grow

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS raised pre-tax profits from £749,000 to £1.36 million on sales up from £7.4 million to £10.1 million in the six months to April 30. Earnings rose from 2.6p to 4p out of which the half-year dividend rises from 1.2p to 1.4p. Hamish Grossart, chairman, said: "These results reflect the impact on performance of the two four-star hotels acquired in Northern England at the end of last year. We are well on the way to a sixth successive year of growth."

Renold improvement

RENOLD, the engineering group, raised pre-tax profits 5 per cent to £22.5 million in the year to March 28 on sales up from £180.3 million to £183.6 million. Earnings rose from 22.7p to 25.7p, out of which the total dividend rises 12.5 per cent to 9.0p after a 5.9p final. Peter Frost, chairman, and the board said that despite the strength of sterling and unpredictable economic influences, the group should "achieve a sound result for the current year" thanks to its wide geographical spread.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank Buys, Bank Sells, Bank Buys, and Bank Sells, listing rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA.

Stock Exchange opens media blitz

By JON ASHWORTH

THE London Stock Exchange today launches "Share Aware", a big advertising campaign in what is seen as a counter-attack against Nasdaq, its American stock market rival.

Leading UK companies including Halifax, BT and British Airways have been roped in for the campaign, which is intended to raise awareness of the advantages of investment. Posters with the theme "selling like hot cakes" will adorn 200 railway stations across the UK. The launch coincides with the publication of a MORI survey into what recipients of

last year's windfall payments did with their money. Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, features in Nasdaq's slick television advertising campaign, which is aimed at establishing Nasdaq in the eyes of European investors.

The Stock Exchange denied the campaign was a reaction to Nasdaq, saying: "We were doing it anyway." However, some industry observers said the timing of the campaign, with markets hitting record highs despite the run of bad publicity over Seps, the Stock Exchange's electronic trading system, could prove ill-judged.

'Independent' spends £6m on relaunch

INDEPENDENT Newspapers is spending more than £6 million on the first stage of a campaign to restore the fortunes of The Independent (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The investment is for 24 new journalists and a mini-relaunch today as the paper reverts to a two-section broadsheet.

Michael Crozier, the paper's original designer, has been involved with the team producing a new look which has echoes of its first format in 1986. May circulation figures are expected to show a modest rise of 20,000 to 220,000.

Changes will hit pension members

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Government has bowed to pressure from the pension fund industry and watered down a key legal safeguard introduced to prevent a repeat of the Maxwell affair.

As a result, people wanting to transfer their pension fund out of their employer's occupational scheme may find their transfer values reduced by up to 31 per cent. Company pension schemes said that tax changes in the Budget had damaged the safeguards in the Pensions Act, introduced in the wake of the abuses uncovered in the Robert Maxwell scandal. They

claimed the abolition of tax credits on dividend income had weakened the solvency test, the so-called minimum funding requirement (MFR) that is the centrepiece of the new legislation and sets a minimum level of funding needed to meet liabilities to members of the schemes.

Yesterday the Government reduced one of the benchmarks used for the MFR. This will allow company schemes to pay lower transfer values to members who are leaving and will reduce the extra money employers need to place in their schemes.

Godfrey to take helm at AITC

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), the trade body for the £65 billion investment trust industry, has appointed its second director-general in six months.

Daniel Godfrey, 36, marketing director of Flemings Investment Trust Management, one of the largest trust managers, has been poached to fill the gap left by Michael Hart, 65, who resigned in February after two months in the job.

Mr Hart's authority was weakened after he became embroiled in a bitter corporate governance row and was voted off the board of the tiny Brazilian Smaller Companies Investment Trust. Mr Godfrey takes the helm at a crucial time for the AITC. Already demoralised by Mr Hart's departure, the association has seemed unable to summon the strategic will to deal with the rising tide of investor unrest. Mr Godfrey said investment trusts had to do more in buying back their own shares and spend more on marketing to attract new investors.

Railtrack's Virgin deal approved

By FRASER NELSON

RAILTRACK secured its second multibillion-pound deal in five days after John Swift, the Rail Regulator, waved through its plans to split with Virgin Rail any profits made on the new West Coast line.

Shares of Railtrack added 15p to a high of £14.10 yesterday, even though the news had been widely expected throughout the industry. It is also the last obstacle to the flotation of Virgin Rail, which intends to join the market next month, valued at about £250 million.

Virgin Rail and Railtrack have promised to invest £2.1 billion in the West Coast service. New trains will shave an hour off the London to Glasgow journey time — currently five hours and 20 minutes. Railtrack is on an incentive scheme which means it will be able to claim a greater proportion of Virgin revenue depending on how quickly it lays down the new track. It has committed to running ten trains from London to Glasgow each day, twice the current amount.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "How The a" and "The Times".

Fearing Asia's Mexican wave



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Like schoolboys being told off by the headmaster in morning assembly, Europe's bankers had to sit quietly and take the criticism yesterday as the Bank of International Settlements blamed them for the Asian crisis. After all the regulators' regulator had all the statistics at its fingertips. The BIS could point to German banks accelerating their lending to South-East Asia as late as last summer, when it was clear that Thailand was in trouble and some Korean firms had already gone bust. It said that there were lax credit controls and poor risk management. And the BIS gave warning that some banks were already piling back in before the smoke had cleared, perhaps throwing good money after bad. Although the BIS was most critical about the Germans, the largest lenders out there happens to be our own HSBC Holdings, which has lent £1.1 billion to Indonesia alone. Standard Chartered is not that far behind, with a £1 billion exposure.

This seems horribly familiar. We have all been here before in the mid-1980s when Mexico defaulted on its loans, followed by most of Latin America, and the West's bankers were competing with each other to see who could spill the most red ink. Then the banks thought sovereign countries could not fail to repay loans. They were wrong. This time they thought the Asian economic miracle could withstand Japanese

deflation. Wrong again. Interestingly, the US banks, who lost the most in the Third World debt crisis, appear to have been the most restrained when lending down Jakarta way (although there are rumours of one US bank losing \$2.5 billion). It is tempting to see this as a triumph for the credit controls brought in by the Americans since that crisis. Indeed at the World Economic Forum in Davos earlier this year, a consultant to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell was admitting how poor his German parent company's risk management systems were.

But in truth the reason why the Americans only dipped a toe into the shark pool while the Europeans dived in was simple economics. The US economy is still booming and the US banking market is full of exciting opportunities — as was shown by yesterday's \$34 billion merger between Wells Fargo and Northwest. Faced with low inflation, low growth and low returns at home, it is no surprise that European bankers should be tempted by the Bangkok festivos.

What really worries the BIS is systemic risk, the fact that a bad loan in one bank could trigger a

collapse, which would trigger a bad loan for another bank and another collapse. In the 1980s, the Federal Reserve could bail out Continental Illinois, admittedly with some difficulty. But if a bank worth \$34 billion should get into trouble, it would stretch the resources of any central bank to bail it out. In an era of global banks, the BIS needs to be increasingly cautious and vigilant, because the bankers don't seem to be.

Belgian bankers stitch up the Dutch

The thing about Belgian banking mergers is that it is hard for anyone outside Flanders to become particularly excited about them. However Fortis's victory over ABN Amro in the battle for Generale Bank should make everyone from Kerry to Karlsbad sit up and take notice. Here was an attempt by

the largest bank in The Netherlands, and one of the most aggressive in Europe, to forge a proper cross-border merger — not one of those piddly things where you buy the seventh largest retail bank and try to build it up. And it falls at the first hurdle. Piecing together the events of the Walloon weekend, it seems that a series of deals were struck in Belgian backrooms to keep the ABN away from Generale. The Belgian bank's 28-strong board had a 15-hour-long meeting — the upshot of which was that the 22 non-executive directors (who apparently were being lobbied by King Albert II) outvoted the six executives who were pressing for a deal with ABN. Key to all of this was Suez Lyonnais des Eaux, the French group which owns 30 per cent of Generale by virtue of being the white knight that a decade ago saved the giant holding company, Société Générale de Belgique, from an aggressive bid by the Italian

entrepreneur, Carlo de Benedetti. Suez was the spoiler again, its eight votes on the Generale Bank board being used to support Fortis — which is half Belgian/half Dutch — and keep out the wholly Dutch ABN. Although Fortis had been allowed to increase its bid to €6.6 billion, so topping ABN's €7.5 billion offer, ABN was told by Generale that any higher bid would be deemed "aggressive", so triggering a host of poison pills, which would be illegal in the UK. ABN, sensing the game was up, withdrew, muttering about a stitch-up.

And quite right. It is all well and good to talk about creating a single European market, with a European currency, harmonised labour practices and a free flow of goods and services. But if national interests are to stand in the way of creating genuine pan-European businesses, then the Maastricht treaty is not worth the paper it is written on. Any

European bank could bid for NatWest, Barclays and Lloyds TSB. But imagine the chances of success if a UK bank bid for Dresdner, Santander or Banco di Roma. Karel Van Miert, the competition commissioner, should investigate the deal to keep ABN out of Belgium. But, being Belgian himself, he probably won't.

Bale-out at British Biotech

This morning, the board of British Biotech should wake up to the alarming news that the company's share price has fallen to below the figure at which the blighted company floated six years ago. Three minutes before the market closed last night, an investor dumped 1.9 per cent of the equity at 42p — a full 9p below yesterday's opening price, 6p below yesterday's close and 4p below the float price. The Stock Exchange's Sets was too cumbersome to catch up with events last night, but surely it will adjust Biotech's share price today to keep up with events.

This rush for the exit shows the exasperation felt by the invest-

ment community for what was once Britain's pre-eminent biotechnology group. The market is clearly unsatisfied with the board's reaction to this alarming scandal, and well it might be. The circular issued last month missed out so much of what the market wanted to know that it would have been familiar to Kremlinologists working in the Stalin era.

The questions needing to be answered are simple. Will either of the main drugs get to market? And if they will not, when did the directors know that the drugs were unlikely to get to market? And if any of the executive directors have not been entirely clear about either of these questions, what are the non-executives going to do about it? Weeks of pressure have not brought any satisfactory answers. Maybe a spiralling share price might.

Gimme tax shelter

HAVE some sympathy for the Chancellor, who has rebuffed the Moaning Stones' attempts to influence tax law by calling off the UK dates of their *Bridges to Babylon* tour. Although no one wants a return to the punitive tax rates of the 1970s, the tax system should be fair to all, and not give breaks to ageing pop stars who already enjoy tax-free income on albums recorded overseas. It seems Brown is more in tune with the times than Jagger.

Bonfield's pay at BT tops £1m

By Jon Ashworth

SIR PETER BONFIELD, the chief executive of BT, earned more than £1 million last year — but missed a £500,000 bonus due with the planned merger with MCI, the US telecoms group.

Sir Peter received a salary of £570,000, a bonus of £325,000, and a further £163,000 in deferred bonus in the year to the end of March, taking his total pay to £1.1 million, up from £754,000 in the previous year. BT said he would have earned a further £500,000 if the deal with MCI had gone ahead.

The 1997 annual report showed the remuneration for Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman, increased to £862,000 (£702,000). His accrued pension is £332,000 (£312,000), and he gained £415,000 through the exercise of share options.

Sir Iain is to become part-time BT chairman from July 31, after more than 10 years as executive chairman.

Bill Cockburn, who joined BT as UK managing director in October, is paid a base salary of £450,000. At his request, his salary has been reduced in the current year to £330,000, but the difference — £120,000 — is paid into a pension scheme on his behalf. He has been granted £150,000 in shares under the BT performance share plan.

Unigate reaffirms expansion policy as profits increase

By Robert Cole
City Correspondent

UNIGATE, the St Ivel dairy foods group, remains firmly committed to a policy of growing by acquisition despite the high-profile failure last month of takeover talks with its rival, Hillsdown Holdings.

Publishing annual results that showed pre-tax profits had risen 13 per cent to £146.4 million, Sir Ross Buckland, Unigate chief executive, said: "Unigate sees opportunities in Western Europe — including the UK."

He said Unigate was interested in small, medium-sized or large deals. He added that the group wanted to buy companies which had good positions in the markets in which they operate or were capable of being built into companies with good market positions.

Unigate is still interested in buying some of the food manufacturing parts of Hillsdown, which encompasses house-building and furniture-making as well as biscuits, chilled foods and jams.

Ian Martin, the chairman, said: "We remain interested in Hillsdown businesses." Unigate has spent £400 million



Ian Martin is still interested in Hillsdown businesses

on acquisitions in the past five years and is financially strong enough to continue buying. It had net cash reserves of £231 million at the year end. Sir Ross said that purchases had to be at prices that represented "value".

Mr Martin said that if suitable acquisition targets could not be found the company would consider returning capital to shareholders.

In the year to March 31 every element of Unigate's operation increased profitability. The company also benefited from interest earnings on

its cash of £7.5 million compared with £2.4 million. Overall sales, however, declined as Unigate felt pressure from currency translations and a fall in selling prices of pork and milk, causing operating profit margins to widen from 5.2 per cent to 6 per cent.

Earnings per share, including the interest benefit and a £1.5 million follow-on payment from a 1995 disposal, came to 47.2p (37.2p). The final dividend of 14p makes a total for the year of 22p, up 8.9 per cent.

Tempus, page 32

Babcock turns the tide

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

BABCOCK International, the troubled facilities management and materials handling group that runs the Rosyth naval dockyard, took a step towards returning to the black with a reduction in losses.

The company, which last year began a massive disposal programme, reported losses for the year to March 31 of £4.5 million, compared with £22.7 million in the previous year. It was hit by an £18.7 million charge on the sale of the bulk of its process division to Amec for a nominal price of £1.

Babcock's order book improved by £110 million to £334 million. The company said it was pushing through a substantial cost reduction and performance improvement programme in its facilities management division.

It also outlined plans to start buying businesses. Babcock has net cash of £21.1 million. John Parker, chairman, said: "Our balance sheet remains unencumbered and we have business plans and a competent management team in place to deliver growth."

The dividend for the year rises 20 per cent to 1.8p, with a final 1.1p due August 12.

Waddington to sell cartons arm

By Fraser Nelson

WADDINGTON, the packaging company which sold its famous board games four years ago, is to shrink in size again by selling its cartons division for a target price tag of £80 million.

Shares of the company rose by 6.5 per cent yesterday after it returned profits of £31 million (£25.6 million) for its remaining direct mail, paper cups and medicine bottle divisions — sharply ahead of City expectations.

Martin Buckley, chief executive, said the cartons division was too small on its own, leaving the choice between building it up or selling it. He said: "The sector is ripe for consolidation. We have a strong position in Europe and

we did think about buying but decided there are better opportunities elsewhere."

City analysts said a bid was likely to come from First Group, Low & Bonar and Field Carton, all big players in the UK carton market.

Mr Buckley expected to find a buyer within six months, and said the proceeds should wipe out the £65 million of debt it has taken on over the year from building up its US medicine bottles division.

Overall, pre-tax profits were £39.5 million (£32.1 million) for the year to April 4, leaving headline earnings of 27.8p (21.6p) per share. A final dividend of 6.8p, due August 8, makes 11.5p (10.4p) for the year.

Electrocomponents puts faith in Japan

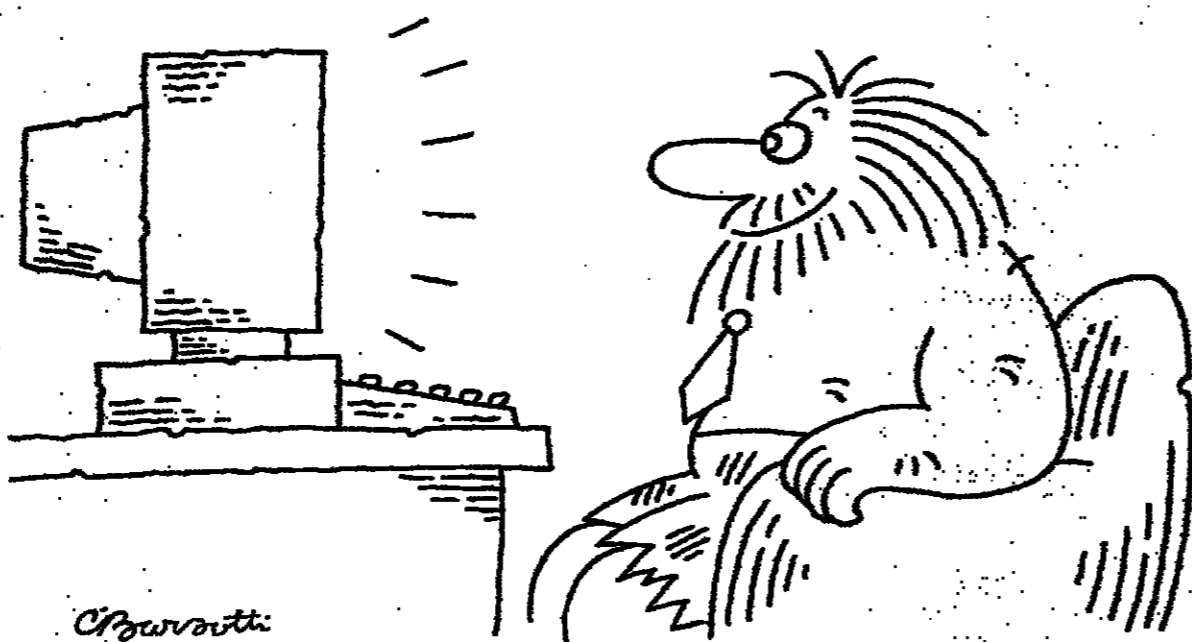
ELECTROCOMPONENTS is to invest £30 million in a catalogue distribution network in Japan in the hope that the country's economy will soon recover (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company, which sells 170,000 electrical parts through 12 catalogues, hopes to take advantage of cheap Tokyo rents and weakness among potential rivals.

Jeff Hewitt, finance director, said: "We have a super business model which should work as well in Japan as it does here." Pre-tax profit was £118 million (£112 million) in the year to March 31. Earnings per share were 18.9p (17.7p) and the dividend rises to 9p (7.7p) with a 6.2p final.

Tempus, page 32

How can you generate new business?
The answer is staring you in the face.



e-business from BT is helping thousands of companies to realise their full potential. We recently provided a leading car rental company with an electronic ordering system on the internet. This means they're now open for business night and day, all year round, all over the world.

e-business. evolution for business.



For a free guide Freefone 0800 800 800 or visit us at ebusiness.bt.com

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

Speedy Stagecoach poised to enter the FTSE 100

THE Stock Exchange steering committee has its quarterly get-together tomorrow to decide which companies will be promoted to the list of top 100 companies and which of those will face the chop.



John E. Harris, left, Daniel Harris, centre, chief executive, and Andrew Rose, finance director, saw Alba rise 2 1/2p

Those likely to be promoted include fast-growing Stagecoach, up 3 1/2p at £14.62, where it is currently capitalised at £3.7 billion.

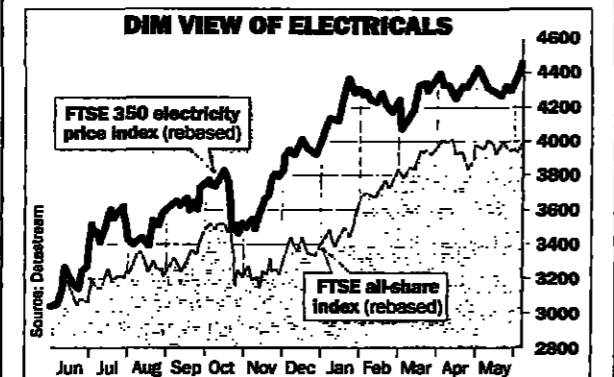
Alba, where John E. Harris is chairman, was rewarded with a jump of 2 1/2p to 216p. The consumer electronics group is confident about prospects.

Things are looking brighter for Hawtill Whiting, which responded with a jump of 1 1/2p to 87 1/2p. Late on Friday, the group confirmed that it had plunged into the red last year.

Those facing relegation include Next, down 5p at 575p, after a profits warning earlier this year.

Diageo, up 30 1/2p at 756p, was one of the better performers among the top 100 companies with Merrill Lynch, the broker, telling clients to accumulate the shares and setting a 12-month target price of £8.10.

But Merrill Lynch looks upon Pilkington less favourably and has downgraded its recommendation from "neutral" to "reduce".



LAST year was one for the electricity companies to savour, with the whole sector up about 16 per cent on the year and comfortably outperforming the FT All-share index.

Trading conditions are looking brighter for the jewellery industry, says a report by Verdict, the research consultants, which is good news for Signet, 2 1/2p better at 51 1/4p.

Things are looking brighter for Hawtill Whiting, which responded with a jump of 1 1/2p to 87 1/2p. Late on Friday, the group confirmed that it had plunged into the red last year.

Televest Communications rose 7p to 120p ahead of the proposed merger with General Cable, 3 1/2p better at 202 1/2p. It follows weekend reports that Cable & Wireless Communications, 9p better at 500p, may link up with NTL and make a bid for the London-based Telewest.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt dipped £0.03 to £109.42 in thin trading that saw 33,000 contracts traded. The short gilt was £0.03 off at £103.90 with just 263 contracts completed.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Ambient Media, Asot B, BTR Red P/B, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Hrdy Oil Gas n/p (25), John Lusty n/p (10), and Silver Shield n/p (1).

PRICE CHANGES

Table of price changes for various stocks including ABS, Trust Motor Gp, Weddington, and others.

TEMPUS Beware rocky ground

WHILE property may be theft, British Land has managed to make a very fine living from it. Until last March so, too, had shareholders of the country's second-biggest property firm.

Then came the Chancellor's second Budget, which unexpectedly increased stamp duty on property valued at more than £500,000 from 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

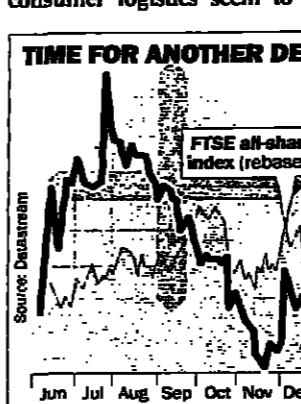
However, the firm continues to trade at a premium to net asset value of 15 per cent, compared with 6 per cent for the sector.

Salvesen SHORN of its fastest-growing business, the new Christian Salvesen looks much like the old.

es, profits for the continuing group fell by almost 12 per cent to £26.4 million.

be easing, the strength of the pound is causing a slowdown in the industrial business.

THE first half-year results since last year's bumper of Aggreko show that profits in the food services division collapsed from £6.8 million to £1.6 million.



But, as Next has demonstrated, it needs only one management mistake to puncture the ratings of such wonder stocks.

Electrocomponents THINGS are looking bleak for Electrocomponents. Its UK customers are officially in recession, profits from its European customers are subdued by the strength of sterling and it is about to lose £30 million in Japan.

But, as Next has demonstrated, it needs only one management mistake to puncture the ratings of such wonder stocks.

Unigate CONstrained on one side by dealing in commodity product and squeezed on the other by cost-conscious super-grocers it is hard work making money from food.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, and WHITE SUGAR.

LCIS-LOR (London 600p)

Table of LCIS-LOR prices including Brent Crude Oil, Brent 15 Day Oil, and others.

WNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table of WNI London Grain Futures including LIFEE WHEAT and LIFEE BARLEY.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London Financial Futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, and others.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of Dollar Rates including Australia, Austria, Belgium, and others.

OTHER STERLING

Table of Other Sterling rates including Argentina peso, Australia dollar, and others.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE Volumes including ASDA, Abbey Nat, and others.

WAL STREET

Table of Wall Street prices including AMP Inc, AMR Corp, and others.

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

Table of Meat & Livestock prices including Average fatstock prices, Average pig prices, and others.

COMMISSIONS

Table of Commissions including Average fatstock prices, Average pig prices, and others.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London Metal Exchange prices including Gold, Silver, and others.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of Money Rates including Base Rates, Discount Rates, and others.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European Money Deposits including Currency, Dollar, and others.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of Gold/Precious Metals including Bullion Open, Close, High, and others.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of Sterling Spot and Forward Rates including Amer Rates, Br Rates, and others.

FTSE INDEX (1984)

Table of FTSE Index (1984) including Index, Change, and others.

LIFEE OPTIONS

Table of LIFEE Options including various call and put options for different stocks.

WAL STREET

Table of Wall Street prices including various stock prices and market data.

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A Shadow Chancellor with City credentials

William Hague promised last week to bring some "new talented faces" to the Conservative front bench. Quite how Sir Norman Fowler and Anne Widdecombe meet this description is not immediately apparent, although Mr Hague will probably feel — given his dearth of human resources — that hitting one and half out of three of his criteria is not too bad a result.

Whether Francis Maude, who has been promoted to Shadow Chancellor, can be described as "new" is equally open to question. Mr Maude was one of Mrs Thatcher's bright young things, serving in the DTI, the Foreign Office and as financial secretary to the Treasury. He possessed a supreme self-confidence — sometimes viewed as arrogance — borne of his early success. At the turn of the decade, he was on most people's lists of those to watch in the 1990s.

If luck, as much as judgment, plays a crucial part in

the making of any political career, Mr Maude may find that the apparent misfortune of losing his seat in 1992 has ultimately worked to his advantage. The defeat, which probably robbed him of a Cabinet post in the second Major government, ensured that he has returned to politics appearing relatively fresh and untainted by the drift of the final Conservative years.

Mr Maude's five years in the political wilderness also enabled him to get the kind of hands-on experience in the private sector that has earned respect in the business community. He worked in the City, principally as head of privatisation at Morgan Stanley, but also served on a number of plc boards including Asda, where he sat alongside his long-standing friend Archie Norman.

Mr Maude is cautious about revealing whether his City experience has yielded any hard policy ideas but it does appear to have coloured his broader attitudes to business.

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

He claims to have learnt just how tight the margin is between failure and success and that the role of government is to stop the kind of impediments to efficient business which can tip the balance. Self-confidence still intact, he also insists that he trusts his instincts much more than when he was in government.

The business years also appear to have tinged his politics with a greater degree of pragmatism. In his early political years, he had a reputation as a bit of a right-wing firebrand — a Thatcherite true-believer. He is quick to make clear that while he still believes government can do great damage to business, he is not advocating an "old hat" pure laissez-faire approach.

Mr Maude won his promotion to Shadow Chancellor on the back of one of the more effective Tory front bench performances as Shadow Culture Minister. He is realistic enough, however, to accept that taking pot-shots at the Millennium Dome, Cool Britannia et al is a very different task to that of tackling the Treasury.

He describes Chris Smith, the Culture Minister, as a "nice chap" with a "flabby intellect". Mr Brown, in contrast, "has a brain" but tends to go into "auto-rant on difficult questions". The Chancellor's employment of repeated formula answers makes it difficult to hit the target. Mr Maude will adopt a reactive approach to events although he insists he wants to avoid

classic "knee-jerk" opposition politics.

It would be a little harsh to draw too many conclusions from Mr Maude's first seven days in the job, despite the old cliché about a week in politics. Opposition spokesmen do not normally face a baptism of fire, but the Bank of England's unexpected decision last week to raise interest rates certainly provided the new Shadow Chancellor with an opportunity to make an early mark.

From the initial evidence, it appears he will bring a greater energy to the job and on ground familiar from his own Treasury days, such as savings policy, he comes across as assured and confident. He is also showing a willingness to try and force the agenda — pre-empting the Chancellor's meeting on European tax harmonisation policies — although in this case his attack petered out when it quickly emerged that Mr Brown had gone into "bat for Britain" and played the veto card to Brussels.

Mr Maude's fortunes will ultimately be made in the long-term development of a new economic blueprint for the Tory party. The Conservatives are still at sea on policy, for instance, officially continuing to oppose the move to an independent Bank of England, although Mr Maude admits that this is no longer viewed as a "life and death issue". He accepts this is going to be a slow process, arguing that it would be foolish to rush to create a new set of policies only to find they do not last the distance to the next election. He remains confident, however, that the Conservative Party best represents the beliefs of the British people and will once more effectively articulate these when it rediscovers confidence in its own values.

If Mr Maude succeeds in his part of the reconstruction of Tory party policy, you can be guaranteed that ten years from now his name will again be high on the list of movers and shakers to watch in the decade.

MARKET LEADER

Backing art to put a brand in the picture

Last week a friend went to see the Henri Cartier-Bresson exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. As she departed she was accosted by a researcher with a clipboard. "Do you know who the sponsor was of that exhibition?" asked the clipboard. "Er... no," said my friend.

Hopefully this lack of awareness will not put off BT, which not only backed Bresson but also is the largest sponsor of arts events in the UK. But it raises an interesting question about how much value advertisers can get from arts sponsorship.

Ernst & Young is often mentioned as a good example of sponsorship working. It took a big risk when it committed £200,000 to sponsoring the Picasso exhibition at the Tate Gallery four years ago. It attracted 300,000 visitors and encouraged accountants to spend even more to back the Cézanne at the Tate two years ago. Among 400,000 people attending the Tate to see the French artist's works were 9,000 staff and clients of Ernst & Young.

When the clipboards accosted people leaving, 71 per cent remembered Ernst & Young were the sponsors.

Encouraged by this Ernst & Young sponsored Bonnard at the Tate and next month will announce its £1 million backing of Monet in the Twentieth Century at the Royal Academy next year. However, you do not have to spend as much to make an impact with arts sponsorship.

Absolut Vodka is a classic example. It has been backing contemporary art since 1985, but its strategy has been to create its own events rather than back others. In its US marketing campaign artists as diverse as Andy Warhol, Keith Haring and Peter Blake all produced works based on the Absolut bottle. In the UK, Absolut is best known for Absolut Secret, an annual event at the Royal College of Art in Kensington where artists — famous and not so — paint postcard-sized works which are sold at £35 each. The twist is that none of the works is signed, so buyers do not know if they are purchasing a Frank Auer-

bach or a Frank Spencer. Last year, there were queues overnight before the event from bargain hunters.

Absolut is following this with Absolut Cobblers, which is to be held at the Barbican from July 15. This is an exhibition of shoes as art, featuring such designers as Manolo Blahnik, Emma Hope and Paul Smith. However, pride of place is expected to go to designs from students of Cordwainers College in Hackney. One is a pair of shoes made out of spun glass — perfect for budding Cinderellas — and another is a tribute to Damien Hirst.

It will feature a training shoe cut in half and suspended in formaldehyde. A case of business sponsoring art spoofing art.

■ MUCH has been written about how much Air France has lost because of its pilots strike, cunningly timed to coincide with the start of the World Cup. So far the cancelled bookings have cost more than the £50 million or so Air France's management estimated it would have saved through the changes in the pay structure that was going to bring in. What has not been included in that calculation is the cost to Air France's position in the increasingly competitive European aviation market place. The airline thought that the World Cup was a good opportunity to bolster its flagging reputation, and maybe make up some ground on British Airways and its French subsidiary, Air Liberté, ahead of a possible partial privatisation next year.

So Air France became the "official" airline of France '98, spending an estimated £40 million on the sponsorship and associated promotions. The television pictures of Air France aircraft, stunningly decked out with a specially created footballer motif, standing idle on the tarmac at Charles de Gaulle airport have consigned all this spending to the dustbin. Frustrated fans, desperate to get to France, are flooding towards British Airways and Eurostar. Air France, in the cutthroat game of snakes and ladders which is international marketing, is sliding rapidly back to square one.



JASON NISSE

Chips are down for maturing giants of the high-tech sector

Middle-age spread is beginning to take its toll, says Carl Mortished

Few things are as entertaining as watching a giant stumble. There is the experience of Schadenfreude in spotting a weakness in a figure that once appeared unassailable. And there is anticipation of the crash that will inevitably follow if the giant fails to regain its footing.

Two US giants of high-tech industry are showing signs that sheer size is causing them to lose balance. Once fast-moving young athletes, Microsoft and Intel have acquired the bulk of middle-age. Both companies still dominate their industries and both have attracted the unwelcome attention of monopoly-busting US regulators.

Intel's dominance is extraordinary — its microprocessors are to be found in nine out of every ten personal computers sold. The impact of its monopoly is also potentially more important than the market clout of Microsoft in software and operating systems. Microprocessors are the brains of PCs and represent the most expensive component for a PC manufacturer.

But the litigation that threatens to engulf Intel and Microsoft is in large part a symptom of a maturing industry. The high-tech sector has been the motor of the US economy in the 1990s, creating jobs and delivering huge profits for investors in what has been a high-margin business.

Intel's share price grew from \$10 to almost \$100 in the four years to 1997. But over the past 12 months Intel stock has been moving in the other direction, and in the first quarter of this year Intel announced that 10 per cent of its workforce was facing the axe. Profits in the first quarter



Intel's dominance in microprocessors has attracted the unwanted attention of the monopoly-busting US regulators

had fallen by a third and Intel admitted that its fat gross margin was under pressure.

What has gone wrong? An even bigger giant is stumbling, and that colossus is the semiconductor industry. Like Intel, National Semiconductor is also shedding one out of ten staff in an attempt to shift its overhead to a more lean environment. The transition will cause pain in Silicon Valley but probably nothing like the agony that will be experienced on the other side of the Pacific, where the seeds of this calamity were sown.

The market for memory chips expanded like a hot-air balloon in the early 1990s, fed by insatiable demand for chips in mobile phones, PCs, consumer electronics and cars. The growth in the market for memory chips increased from 13 per cent in 1992 to 42 per cent in 1995. Such a rate of growth in

any industry would lead to competition, and semiconductor is no exception. The new electronics powerhouses of Asia — Korea and Taiwan — invested heavily and brought prices down. Simple D-Ram memory chips became a commodity but the huge growth in the PC market created a virtuous circle — cheaper components meant cheaper PCs and cheaper computers stimulated more consumer demand.

Last year, the hot-air balloon's heater ran out of fuel. Chip-making plants litter the Far East and the price of a 16-megabyte D-Ram has fallen 82 per cent from \$11.50 in April last year to about \$2.10. Spot market prices are in the \$1.50 to \$1.70 range. That compares with average manufacturing costs for a 16-megabyte chip of about \$2.10

in the Far East. It is, therefore, easy to see why a company, such as Siemens, is losing money making chips in Newcastle.

Siemens is not alone. Motorola recently gave warning that it faced a severe loss from semiconductor in its second-quarter earnings. The electronics conglomerate is cutting 15,000 jobs as part of a restructuring package that will cost \$1.95 billion. More important than the now historical loss is the company's forecast that the semiconductor market would shrink by 2 per cent this year.

The shrinkage is in revenue, not volume terms. Andrew Bryant, analyst at BT, points out that demand for D-Rams is not in decline; it is the market value of the product that is in doubt.

PC manufacturers are the key, and they are demanding

smaller and cheaper products to satisfy the consumer expectation that any electronics product will always be cheaper next year. PC manufacturers are now targeting \$1,000 products, which means that suppliers will be required to trim their prices to fit the new price point.

On top of that is the Asian financial crisis. The effect on the semiconductor market of a liquidity crisis is likely to have been twofold: an initial drive to export as companies attempt to find alternatives to their weakening domestic markets. Asian PC demand fell 29 per cent in the first quarter of this year. However, Mr Bryant says that funding is returning to the region, a development that will only worsen the chip glut.

Japanese manufacturers have finally acknowledged the inevitable and are trimming

their investment spending. Fujitsu has cut its budget in half to \$600 million, while Hitachi is down by a third and Toshiba has reduced its expenditure by 18 per cent to \$1 billion. An investment cutback will inevitably hurt suppliers such as Britain's BOC, which makes the vacuum equipment needed by semiconductor makers for clean manufacturing conditions.

What is the future of an industry requiring such huge investment and prone to a boom-and-bust cycle? Logically, the players would consolidate to combine their resources in research and development. Texas Instruments is said to be in talks to sell its memory chip business to Micron Technology, another US chipmaker, and there must be question marks over how long companies such as Motorola and Siemens will continue to invest in a commodity business.

Ironically, at a juncture where the forces compelling mergers in this industry are at their height, the US regulators are focusing their efforts on trust-busting. This is not entirely surprising. The oil industry, a capital-intensive and deeply cyclical business went through a similar phase in its development, leading to a prolonged legal battle and, eventually, to the break up of Rockefeller's Standard Oil. However, the oil industry today is dominated by a small number of giants.

The semiconductor industry is having perhaps a greater impact on our lives at the end of this century as the oil industry had at the beginning, transforming the way people work and bringing technology, whether motor cars or computers, to the masses.

It is not illogical for Andrew Grove of Intel and Bill Gates of Microsoft to be seen as the Deterding and Rockefeller of the 1990s, at the helm of a high-tech version of Standard Oil or Shell. Even if they lose their own empires, the need for financial muscle will create new giants.

In such a volatile market, Mr Grove's maxim that only the paranoid survive, is probably apt.

Out of tune

A LARGE chunk of ITV's schedule on Saturday night was devoted to the life and works of Andrew Lloyd Webber to mark his 50th birthday. This oleaginous tribute was made by the Really Useful Company, owned by Lord Lloyd-Webber, and there was little attempt to disguise the fact that he has a new opera in the pipeline.

In fact this was little more than a 90-minute advertisement for his work. It must be nice to have your birthday party broadcast on prime



Lord Lloyd-Webber: 90 minutes of blowing his own trumpet

time TV, and to be paid for it. ITV admits to buying the thing. "Clearly he's promoting his new show, but I think people are interested in hearing things from his new show," I am told. You don't get much change from £100,000 for half a minute of advertising space on Saturday night, so the exercise could have cost Lloyd Webber £18 million.

One broadcaster was censured by the TV industry watchdog a while back for broadcasting an extended plug for Euro Disneyland — the phrase used in the regulations is "undue prominence". Oddly enough it was LWT, which also broadcast the Lloyd Webber smugfest.

● ENMAP, the magazine publisher, has set the lawyers on to Richard Howell-Thomas, former editor of LRO, a magazine for Land Rover owners it bought for £2.25 million in July 1994. A condition of the sale was that he could not be involved in another Land Rover publication before midnight on June 28th 1998. Now a new magazine LRM — or Land Rover Monthly — is being launched on June 29.

Enmap claims that Howell-Thomas must have been working on the launch before the deadline. There is indeed a Howell-Thomas working for

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

the new publication: his wife Catherine. Whatever happens, Land Rover owners will be well served with reading matter. Apart from LRO and the planned LRM there is a third magazine, Land Rover World. How on earth do they fill them?

Stumped

NO ONE at Tesco is prepared to discuss it, but the supermarket chain had plans for a 60,000 sq ft megamarket at Dunfermline. This was to tie in with the jobs bonanza expected from the Hyundai microchip factory there. Tesco paid well over the odds for some farmland bought from Wilson Connolly, the housebuilder. The

local council is trying to revive Dunfermline town centre, plus there is already a huge Asda to the east. The Tesco store was given outline planning permission because of the plant, but the Koreans have, of course, pulled out.

The council has told Tesco that the store is too big and would pull trade away from the local shops. If the company opts for a smaller store, it loses its main advantage over Asda, which is closer to town. Now no one can decide what to do with all this farmland. Wilson Connolly is even thinking of building a cricket pitch, a sign of some desperation in a country where almost no one plays cricket.

● THE new regime at British Biotech is keeping a close eye on costs. Analysts are at a briefing on Friday in Oxford. This had to be postponed from last month because of all the trouble the company is in. British Biotech had initially agreed to provide analysts with train tickets, but they have now been told they will have to pay their own fares.

Given the Elba

THOSE who remember Peter Rawlings, the former Stock Exchange chief executive who exited in 1993 after the Taurus disaster, will be saddened to learn that he has just lost out again. Rawlings, who for some reason attracted the nickname "Napoleon" while at the exchange, was then hired by Siegel & Gale, the brand consultancy. Which is where I thought we had left him, but it seems Rawlings made a low-key departure from S&G within months. Peter's idea of what was required and what was required of him were 180 degrees apart, an insider says diplomatically. The final straw came when he rang Charles Scott, chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, insisting on a meeting. Now Saatchi has sold Siegel & Gale to management, who can expect to do rather well when the company is floated in New York.



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Prices squeezed higher

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Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

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GALLERIES
Glories of Byzantium in London
PAGE 37

THE TIMES
ARTS

OPERA
Dresden's troubled festival
PAGE 38



Welcome to the lion's den

ANGELA LUBRANO

Once every two years Madness get back together for a few hours in Finsbury Park on a Sunday afternoon...



Show me the way to go home: Finley Quaye's sun-splashed reggae failed to soothe members of the audience angered by his World Cup forecast

POP
Madness
Finsbury Park

clear. Certainly the bottles and cans thrown by a group of hardcore Madness fans were unforfeitable...

and Kinky Reggae, but riffs and phrases borrowed from half a dozen other Marley songs...

Jamaican acts Desmond Dekker and Toots and the Maytals had fared better earlier in the day...

entire crowd joining in with Cerys Matthews on Road Rage, and the quirky Scouse humour of Space...

But this party belonged to Madness. What can you say about a set that was almost identical to the one they played two years ago...

Perfect in every detail, Madness, too, sounded like a tribute band — the only difference being that this time the band was paying tribute to itself.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Dutch without much of a treat

DANCE

NDTZ, Nederlands Dans Theater's ensemble of junior dancers, are no longer a novelty...

pointed to another problem: some of the present dancers don't live up to the smooth physicality we have come to expect of NDTZ...

NADINE MEISNER

Porgy and less

CONCERTS

AND so America continues to be invented at the Barbican. Friday night's concert was dominated by a performance which well nigh erased from the consciousness all that had gone before...

almost the rest of the festival put together.

Not so Richard Stoltzman and Lukas Foss, who featured both in this concert, and in a recital of their own the following evening...

HILARY FINCH

Any colour, as long as it's black

Portishead
Coilston Hall, Bristol

of Billie Holiday, her voice can veer from kittenish purr to banshee howl in seconds...

Even familiar favourites such as Glory Box and Sour Times, from the band's more sedate debut album, Dummy, were stripped down and reworked into barely recognisable survivors of post-traumatic stress...

STEPHEN DALTON

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Hidden truth revealed in the flesh

Lucian Freud's masterful studies of human form and foible are on show at the Tate. Richard Cork reports

Unlike Francis Bacon, who was granted two large Tate retrospectives during his lifetime, Lucian Freud has never been given an exhibition of any kind at Millbank. Now, with Freud in his mid-70s, partial amends are being made for this astonishing omission. A show of his new paintings and graphic work salutes the sustained, adventurous gusto of Freud's late period, and makes me eager to see the Tate acknowledge his stature with a full-length survey of his career.

summoning up the pink vulnerability of young flesh, and he proves even more consummate when painting a large, magisterial portrait of a woman in a grey dress. Resting a book on her lap, she places her bare legs on a button armchair. Knees and toes are handled with aplomb. They end up disclosing more about the sitter than her meditative face, and their rude vigour counters the decay in the stained wall beyond.

wolf-hound. The painting seems, at first, like a celebration of their companionship. But Annabel is not looking at the dog slumped beside her. Rattler's flaring tufts of hair erupt on the white sheet, and the heaviness of his slack body could hardly be more at odds with the lithe elongation of the woman beside him.



Freud's *Girl in Attic Doorway* (1995): a typically enigmatic portrait of a subject apparently pondering whether to clamber to the room below

Hanging in the room normally occupied by Mark Rothko's mural-size canvases, his exhibits could not be more at variance with the work they have supplanted. Where Rothko was committed to cloudy abstraction, Freud is set on hard observation of the figures who are prepared to withstand his prolonged scrutiny. Many of his pictures are smaller than the grand, engulfing images favoured by Rothko. And the moods explored in Freud's show are more diverse than the brooding melancholy that finally drove Rothko to take his own life.

Freud can move at will from tenderness to mordant humour

The range of emotions in this concise, engrossing exhibition should confound those who habitually accuse Freud of unrelenting coldness. All the evidence indicates that the artist is able to move at will from tenderness to mordant humour. The first painting we encounter even shows a young man grinning. Sporting a cowboy hat tilted back on his head, he could hardly look more spontaneous and relaxed. Only later do we realise that his exposed teeth hint at a more predatory nature.

or slightly askew. Look at the large picture of a naked woman on the far wall, sprawling with legs splayed across the sofa in a bizarre, crab-like posture. She seems in danger of falling off, and only her left hand resting on the boards ensures that she stays secure. As for *Girl in Attic Doorway*, she appears to be debating whether to stay inside her cramped eyrie or clamber, perilously, down to the room below.

He could be seen as a protective presence, a sentinel whose doze might easily be replaced by a growing urge to ward off danger. However devoted he may be to his mistress, though, the distance between them gives the painting some of its tension. There is no suggestion that Annabel wants to touch or cuddle her hound. Her entire body seems stiffened by a state of alertness.

His masterly handling of both these feet gives them a remarkable air of vitality, indicating her readiness to slide down the bed and stride away. The unusually thick layers of paint lend great tactile conviction to the sole of her right foot, and accentuate the vitality running through the rest of her body. The bed's iron frame near by, combined with the closed-in darkness beyond, ought to make the whole image more claustrophobic. Annabel certainly seems contained by her surroundings, but she is far from imprisoned.

The quintessence of Byzantium

Michael Binyon on a dazzling new exhibition of icons on loan from Greece

The Byzantine Empire lasted more than a thousand years, producing scholars and craftsmen whose works are synonymous with opulence, artifice and complexity. Yet some of the greatest works of art, inspired by the Christian tradition that began with the founding of a new capital at Constantinople, are as austere, unchanging and obscure as the monasteries across Asia Minor and the Near East that produced them.

Conversation with God is a breathtaking display both of the splendour of these icons and the devotional fervour of their creators. Twenty-five of the most vibrant in the Byzantine Museum in Athens have been brought to London for the six-month festival *Greece in Britain*, marking the British presidency of the European Union. It is the first time that all but three have left the Greek museum.

Ion painting is the quintessential art of Byzantium. Some of the most beautiful depictions of Christ, the Virgin Mary and the early saints were painted well over 600 years ago on simple oak boards by unknown monks in Greece, Cyprus, Cappadocia and Byzantium itself to glorify their monasteries, worship God and inspire believers. Icons, it was believed, had a sanctity of their own; they interceded with God on behalf of mortals. For the holy figures they represented were in dialogue with the Almighty.

What little northern Europe knows of icons is mainly the work of the later Russian icon painters, who learnt their art from the Byzantines. But Andrei Rublyov, the great Russian master, did not begin painting until the 15th century.



St Marina (15th century): "Icons had a sanctity of their own: they interceded with God on behalf of mortals"

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

RACHMANINOV'S THIRD PIANO CONCERTO reviewed by David Fanning

Rachmaninov composed his Third Piano Concerto for his New York debut on November 28, 1909. Presumably with that in mind he pushed his demands on the solo part and the intricacy of the composition to new limits, making it the acme of the Russian concerto tradition, and at the same time grafting on a layer of New World glamour.

doubt more than any considered musical judgment.

The early performance tradition is associated with Vladimir Horowitz. His mercurial, poetic, sometimes technically astonishing, but equally often slapdash and mannered playing has many adherents. But from 1963 the reference recordings have been those of Ashkenazy. After his first and arguably most spontaneous account, with Fustulari in 1963, he switched to the larger cadenza, and with this came a shift of emphasis towards a broader, less superficially dazzling approach.

It wasn't long before he had second thoughts, however. He provided a lighter alternative to the colossal first movement cadenza and made cuts in all three movements, as can be heard on his recording with Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1939. Then aged 66, he was still in fine fettle, and this version, though thinly recorded and hissy, remains a moving and historically indispensable document. All the same, pianists and commentators now agree that the self-inflicted cuts are damaging — they probably reflect the composer's chronic self-

Ashkenazy's latest recording, with Haitink and the Concertgebouw in 1985, makes a safe recommendation, but even more naturally suited to the weighty modern manner is Yevgeny Kissin, with the Boston Symphony and Ozawa. For the closest thing to a fusion of old-style panache and risk-taking with modern clarity and control, there's no beating Martha Argerich, with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and Riccardo Chailly, recorded live in 1982 (Philips 446 673-2 £15.49).

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AROUND THE GALLERIES

THINK of all those terrible taboo words you would never dream of applying to serious art. Think about "charming", "graceful", "poetry", "nostalgic" and "amusing". Every single one applies neatly to the paintings of Antonio Saliola. Yet there is not only supreme skill at what he does, but that he is eminently serious too. Saliola wears his skill and his learning very lightly, so that unless spectators really think about it they will hardly be aware of the compulsive forces which drive him. He is Italian, and is having his first London show at the Roy Miles Gallery: he will be 60 next year, and is already very well known in Italy and on the Continent generally.

Romantics, as well as, one suspects, the period films of Visconti and Bertolucci. Sometimes the results are slightly surreal, with characters walking in and out of Monet landscapes or a pack of small terriers enjoying a very human-looking bathtime. Encountering Saliola, one steps into another, parallel universe, where the clock stands at ten to three and there is honey still for tea. Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1 (0171-95 4747), until July 16.

His subject matter is a sort of *Grand Meaulnes* vision of country life in a hazily defined past which we take to be the primarily belle époque. The paintings are full of dogs and children, in comfortable interiors or in the lush countryside round about. One might also be aware that he has had as much training in art history as in art itself: the paintings are full of Post-Modernist references to Monet and the 19th-century

Frank Martin is one of the unsung heroes of contemporary British illustration and printmaking. This is probably because he has generally been content to plough his own furrow and hand on his skills to generations of students at Camberwell College of Art. It is also because at first glance he seems to be extremely conservative: he learnt wood engraving from Gerrude Hermes, and his illustrations for books are unmistakably dead centre of the great British tradition.

But that is to disregard his considerable output of independent prints in all sorts of graphic media, many of which are inspired by classic Holly-

wood cinema. This provides some very strange material for woodcuts and wood engravings, and brings out a beguiling bizarreness of vision as well as extreme technical virtuosity. The show at Editions Graphiques, which celebrates Martin's 50th year as a printmaker, coincides with the publication of a resplendent, limited-edition study of Martin's wood engravings by Hal Bishop, with a catalogue raisonné and copious reproductions. Editions Graphiques Gallery, 3 Clifford Street, W1 (0171-734 3944), until June 20.

ANYONE who enjoys the elegantly offbeat (and primarily representational) art will be saddened to hear that Christopher Hull is retiring from the gallery scene, though he will continue to deal privately. His Belgravia gallery has been for some years a constant source of unexpected experiences in art, whether through its doughty championing of unfashionable senior artists like John Craxton, or by introducing us to exciting new talents who frequently hover on that hazy margin between what we optimistically call the real world and what we hopefully define as a world of dream.

The gallery goes out in style with a show of new work by one of Hull's prime discoveries, John Boyd. His paintings are still located among downs and dunces, but seem to be shading even further into nightmare: the colours are as invigorating as ever. Christopher Hull Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 7912), until June 19.

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Jules Verne at the opera

Festive charm wears thin

OPERA: Rodney Milnes finds a culture of contradictions in Dresden

All other things being equal, the Dresden Festival should share the *réclame* of Edinburgh and Salzburg. It offers a similar concentrated binge of music, opera and dance over nearly three weeks. For example, on the last Sunday of this year's festival, having spent the morning maybe listening to John Tomlinson singing *Wotan's Farewell* with the Staatskapelle, you were faced in the evening with a choice between Bontempi's *Dafne*, exhumed from among countless other treasures in the Dresden State Library and probably being performed for the first time since 1671; or rare Strauss — *Friedenstag* — in the meticulously restored Semper Opera.

There were two new operas, Matthias Pintscher's *Chatterton* and Siegfried Matthus's *Farinelli*, as well as *Aida* and *L'italiana*. All this is offered at prices (£30 top for the glitziest operatic premiere, £15 top for concerts) that make even Edinburgh look expensive, and Salzburg way off into the realms of fantasy. And it's none of it rubbish: the Staatskapelle is one of the world's great orchestras, and it is 450 years old, a mere baby compared to the Kreuzchor which dates back to the 14th century. Dresden's musical traditions — Schütz, Bach, Weber, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Strauss — are matchless.

So why are other things not equal? The festival is comparatively young, founded in 1978 in the old GDR as an instrument of propaganda and launched by — who else? — Herbert von Karajan, who wasn't fussy about where his cheques came from. Since 1994 it has been well run by Michael Hampe, who has introduced old-fashioned things like budgets; in the old days, bills were simply forwarded to Berlin. Hampe

insists on keeping the prices equal, the Dresden Festival should share the *réclame* of Edinburgh and Salzburg.

But there's a more recent past as well — what is known locally as the apocalypse of 1945, and the police-state era. Evidence of the fire-bombing is inescapable: only the central area was restored, the rest replaced by GDR brutalism, in its turn now being replaced by depressingly bland post-modernism.

Are absurdly luxurious hotels, against whose windows one can sense the "Ossies" pressing their noses, really what the survivors of 1945 and the decades of tyranny need? A new class structure, based on conspicuous consumerism, is being erected, and two scorched fragments of *putti* from the old Zwinger serve as a decorative motif in the foyer of one of those hotels. Apocalypse kitsch?

Strauss's militantly pacifist *Friedenstag* (1938), which went down like a bucket of sick with the Nazis, was inevitably played against a wall, which gradually disintegrated. During the triumphant finale it revealed a mass cemetery; corpses resurrected, and children using fragments of the crosses to spell out improving messages to the audience, again suggesting a slightly Disney-esque approach to the city's past. The playing of the Staatskapelle and singing of the Opera and Philharmonic Choruses were beyond praise.

Chatterton, decently composed in severe modern style and one act (many of the audience nevertheless left early), was — surprise, surprise — about a tormented artist and graced by a virtuoso performance from Urban Malmberg in the title role. But I wish artists would stop whingeing and do something constructive for the society into which they were born. They could make a start in Dresden.

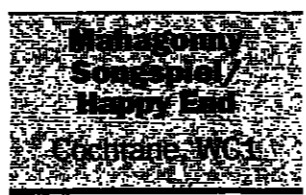


Urban Malmberg gives a virtuoso performance in the title role of Matthias Pintscher's opera. *Thomas Chatterton*

IN PRINCIPLE, this is a very inviting double bill, *Rodney Milnes* writes. Weill's first *Mahagonny* project, the sensation of the Baden-Baden contemporary music festival in 1927, is instrumentally rather more interesting (and much shorter) than the ensuing full-length opera. In *Happy End*, a famous flop in 1929, he reached the apogee of his "song style": one fabulous number after another culminating in the *Hosannah Rockefeller* finale, one of the most lethally subversive numbers he ever wrote.

Elisabeth Hauptmann's *Salvation Army* — shades of *Major Barbara*, foretastes of *Gays and Dolls*, with the Communist Manifesto chucked in —

Vile by nature



is not nearly as bad as its reputation, but does not bear too much repetition. Yet Weill's songs have to be heard in a dramatic context, and a severely shortened version is the ideal solution, as the composer himself realised. But it needs to be done a great deal better than by the Belgian company *Muziek*

theater *Transparent*, which brought it to the BOC Covent Garden Festival last week. The text was incoherent, the direction embarrassingly amateurish — in the case of *Mahagonny*, simply unfaithful. Even more depressing was the playing: coarse, ill-balanced, un-nuanced, of a standard that would not pass muster from first-year students at music college. It might have served for some hack dance-band composer, but not for the subtly varied accompaniments devised by the Mozart of the *Kurfürstendamm*. Who on earth heard this and thought it

should be imported to London? At least Susannah Self revealed a proper voice and decent technique as the Salvation Army lassie Lillian Holliday, and did well by *Der kleine Leutnant des lieben Gottes*. But she was slightly too "operatic" for *Surabaya Johnny*, which was anyway destroyed by the conductor's impossibly glutinous tempo. Things looked up momentarily with a lively *Song von Mandalay*, but there was no hint of the black despair lurking just beneath its raunchy surface. *Hosannah Rockefeller* more or less survived, but it was a bit late. A complete write-off, I fear, and a gross disservice to one of the great 20th-century composers.

Stars twinkle for the king

THEATRE
Hey, Mr Producer!

Some 45 years ago a boy named Cameron Mackintosh bounced out of the Vaudeville Theatre, his head humming not only with music from Julian Slade's *Salad Days*, but with dreams of becoming a theatrical impresario. Sunday night's concert, just a few yards up the Strand from the Vaudeville, showed how little the kid was kidding himself.

Hey, Mr Producer! was designed to celebrate Sir Cameron's 30 creative years in showbiz, as well as raise funds for the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Combined Theatrical Charities. It played last night to the Queen and has now come to an end. After all, it isn't reasonable to expect the likes of Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters and Stephen Sondheim to do more than zoom, comet-like, through the West End.

The evening began with a child in a kilt — the tot Cameron — entering a tiny theatre in which an antique piano was playing Slade's rueful rejection of nostalgia, *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*. After that, there was a lot of enthusiastic looking back. On came 70-odd orphans to sing *Food, Glorious Food* from *Oliver!*, followed by Jonathan Pryce as a supercilious Henry Higgins, followed by a preposterously young-looking Andrews.

She spoke of Mackintosh's resourcefulness as a producer and, given the number of shows represented, might have gone further: diversity also makes Mackintosh Mackintosh. After a rousing gospel song from *Godspell* came the dry-Martini *I Get A Kick Out Of You* from *Anything Goes*, and after Jimmy Logan and his pipers had hooted and banged their way through *I Love A Lassie*, we got a sampler from *Five Guys Named Moe*.

Les Mis: thanks to Bob Avian and Julia Mackenzie's direction and Martin Kosh's musical direction, the production values were surprisingly high, given that the show was being performed twice only. *Phantom* had its fog and gondoia, and *Miss Saigon* plenty of night-clubbing GIs and parading Vietnam. Pryce reappeared as Boubill and Schönberg's pimp, giving a stinky, mocking account of *The American Dream*. Peters sang a number from *Song and Dance*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's tale of a lovelorn English girl abroad, Julia Mackenzie, Maria Friedman, a feline Elaine Paige singing *Memory*, Judi Dench with *Send in the Clowns*: so it went on.

There were surprises, notably the first stage appearance for 25 years of Tom Lehrer, who sang with all his old jauntness of poisoning pigeons in the park, and the appearance of Sondheim. He introduced a new song which, sadly, was seen only on film, but, less sadly, brought himself and Lloyd Webber to the same piano to play a spoof duet derived from *Clowns* and Lloyd Webber's *Music of the Night*.

"Night-time falling, Cameron calling," they sang. "God, isn't he rich?" Sondheim went on. "Richer than me," Lloyd Webber added. Whether or not that's true, the house rose to Mackintosh when he came on stage to thank everyone and sang *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*. He is the most remarkable producer of our era.

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LAW

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Are the days of rich pickings from legal aid numbered, asks Frances Gibb. Two legal experts, below, report

THE DAYS of rich pickings from legal aid are numbered. Next week the Bar goes on trial... over legal aid fees. An unprecedented hearing by five law lords will examine how such fees should be calculated after a senior official refused to sanction the bills submitted by four silks: Peter Feinberg, Richard Henriques, Michael Mansfield and Christopher Salton. The bills arose after appeals to the House of Lords and ran to tens of thousands.

House of Lords held a similar hearing, only then it was barristers who complained after their fee bills were cut. Lord Templeman, a senior law lord, was "staggered" at the bills put in by a QC and his junior. The amount, £107,000 (including VAT) for four days, would have "hired three very competent headmasters for a year".

try and impress me about how difficult it is or how hard counsel have to work and how they burn the midnight oil.

The guidance he sought now looks certain to emerge. The effect will be felt through all ranks of the Bar. The likely comparison will be with doctors. An NHS consultant's basic salary spans £44,780 to £57,800. On top, there are "merit" awards for the best in their field: 2,120 receive an extra £23,120, 955 receive £43,460 and 277 the top award of £54,910. So an annual salary from public funds is, at most, £110,000.

Many top up with private earnings (as do legal aid barristers), which for consultants average £40,000 a year, although some earn £150,000 to £200,000.

Geoffrey Bindman's firm was involved in one of the appeals now under scrutiny. He disagrees that for the work done and its importance, the fees were too high. In the case, Mr Salton charged £33,000, which was cut to £28,000. The appeal, a miscarriage of justice, made new law: it raised the issue of when two people commit a crime, and whether if one commits murder, as here, the other can be convicted. The Lords said: "No."

Mr Bindman said: "It was a very important decision. Chris Salton took it on after it failed in the lower court. I don't think his fees were unreasonable. We charge according to the time and effort put in."

Some QCs work hard for their legal aid fees and compared with colleagues in private practice, are thin cats. But the greed of a few, coupled with lack of any real controls at the top end of the market, has discredited the system.

Bumping over the silk road

Sir Gavin Lightman on the history and role of the QC

The original purpose behind the appointment of barristers as king's or queen's counsel was, as the name implies, to be available to act as counsel for the Crown. That purpose has long disappeared. It is not obvious that the division of the Bar into silks and juniors is necessary or even valuable today. A heavy price is paid for the silk system.

There is some dissatisfaction in the legal profession about how the system operates, and a perception that no consistent or uniform system of selection is applied. Undoubtedly, quite exceptional candidates are disappointed - without any explanation or recourse - year after year.

In short, the price paid for the system of granting silk is not negligible in respect of economy and equality. At the least, serious consideration should be given to changing the seating arrangements in court and ensuring that there is no

distinction in court between advocates. I have nothing to say about the general level of fees charged by the Bar. But extravagant fees are charged by some leading practitioners in commercial and insolvency cases.

Public attention has focused on the runaway costs of insolvencies: it has not always been noticed that legal fees and the costs of litigation constitute a large (if not the major) element of many insolvencies. It is not unusual today to find briefs marked at £100,000, and a number of leaders regularly charge a brief fee of £350,000 and more, plus refreshers of £2,000 a day and more. It is fair to point out that the brief

SERIOUS MONEY

Top legal aid QCs said by the Government to have received more than £400,000 in 1996-97 are:

- Anthony Arlidge, Stephen Bannan, Michael Hill, Alan Jones, Edmund Lawson, Peter Rook, Malcolm Swift, Stuart Stevens, Ronald Thwaites, Andrew Trollope.

The Bar disputes the figures, saying that they include payment for several years' work.



Sir Gavin: there should be some mechanism enabling a fee review after the event

or her trust and confidence in counsel in this (for him) enormous investment, and has proceeded with the litigation on the assumption that counsel will see him through it, charging the reasonable fees to be expected. Counsel's clerks should not be allowed to demand a fee exploiting the relationship of dependence so created.

The second reason is that as the Bar has, for all practical purposes, a monopoly on the right of advocacy in the higher courts, the market is restricted. Indeed, in a number of specialist fields, a limited number of chambers have (or are perceived to have) the field to themselves and charge accordingly. The consequences of the existence of the monopoly are aggravated by the chambers system. Clients are entitled to skilled and effective negotiation with counsel over fees, but this is scarcely feasible in a system in which a single clerk represents all the (potentially competitive) members of the same chambers, and the clerks to a number of

chambers have a practice of coordinating their responses - ie, fixing prices. When there is a monopoly, there is a public interest and right to regulate the exercise of monopoly power. Reference is often made to the taxicab-rank principle: counsel is obliged, like the taxi driver who has a monopoly, to act for anyone seeking his services in the field in which he practises and who is willing to pay his fees. The difference is that taxi fares are regulated - the Bar's are not.

The present monopoly surely requires that a dissatisfied or concerned client should have access to some mechanism enabling fees to be reviewed after the event, when the client need not be concerned that such a review might affect his continuing relationship with the counsel retained. That medium might be the Legal Services Ombudsman. The Bar would have nothing to fear from this innovation: a whole, its reputation as an individual should be enhanced.

access to some mechanism enabling fees to be reviewed after the event, when the client need not be concerned that such a review might affect his continuing relationship with the counsel retained. That medium might be the Legal Services Ombudsman. The Bar would have nothing to fear from this innovation: a whole, its reputation as an individual should be enhanced.

Sir Gavin Lightman was appointed to the High Court Bench, Chancery Division, in 1994. This is an edited extract from the Chancery Bar Association spring lecture 1998 last Wednesday.

PETER BIRTS Peter Birts, QC, is a former chairman of the Bar's legal aid and fees committee and is regularly instructed in costs appeals.

The guard dog that didn't bite

When blasting off about the fees charged by some top QCs in his Chancery Bar Lecture last week (see extract, left), Mr Justice Lightman made clear that he was not referring to criminal legal aid fees. And rightly so. Everyone knows that privately paid fees in large cases greatly surpass those allowed under legal aid, even in the most complex and demanding criminal cases.

As Anthony Scrivenor, QC, crucially reminded us (Law, May 12), legal aid fees, including those quoted in the so-called "fat cat" list, are approved by court officials employed by the Lord Chancellor's Department. That is so in every Crown Court case, where fees are assessed by determining officers (DOs) under legal aid regulations laid before Parliament by the Lord Chancellor.

Not so well known is that the general levels of criminal legal aid fees are not fixed by DOs, but by High Court taxing masters on appeals after DO decisions. The regulations give the Lord Chancellor - the paying party in legal aid cases - a right to make representations at all such appeals "with a view to ensuring that the public interest is taken into account".

The levels set by these (fee) appeals are relevant to fees for appellate work. In the Court of Appeal these are approved by the Registrar, and in the House of Lords by the Clerk of Parliaments.

In only a handful of legal aid fee appeals in recent years - including the very large cases - has the Lord Chancellor chosen to exercise his right to make representations and, when he has, his submissions have centred more on matters of principle than on actual fee levels. Thus, taxing masters have made decisions on fee levels after hearing argument from one side only - that of appellant counsel and solicitors. The inference must be that the Lord Chancellor has regarded fee levels allowed in these cases as not only reasonable but consistent with the public interest.

I would be the last to say that he has been wrong. On the contrary, these fee judges - experts in assessing costs across the whole field of civil and criminal litigation - are obliged to apply the regulations according to established principles of costs law and award reasonable amounts for work actually and reasonably done. And they do. Their decisions are *ex-hypothesi* reasonable.

So many will have been unsettled by the recent "naming and shaming" of counsel - whose fees have been allowed under due process of law - by a paying party who had a statutory right (some would say public duty) to take part in that process but declined to exercise it.

They may have seen nothing yet. On June 17, five law lords will, at the request of the Clerk of Parliaments, review fee claims put in by experienced counsel in line with fee levels set by the taxing masters and tacitly approved by successive Lord Chancellors. No doubt on this occasion Lord Irvine will be making representations and, if he is successful, producing a "thin cats" list, perhaps?

Paper urges shake-up

A PAMPHLET from the Fabian Society, Labour's oldest think-tank, wants an end to self-regulation for the legal profession. It also calls for the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS) to be replaced with a body similar to the General Medical Council and the scrapping of barristers' blanket immunity from negligence actions for court work.

INNS AND OUTS

concentrate on its trades union role. It also suggests that a body of professionals and lay members be set up. The paper dismisses as "nonsense" the Bar's argument that to remove its immunity would prompt every convicted criminal to bring complaints.

Help at hand

THE International Women Lawyers UK group is making a comeback. The group, which helps women lawyers with education and contacts, was disbanded in 1994. But tonight at the Groucho Club in Soho, its former president, Judith

Lyons, and ex-co-treasurer, Julie Scott-Bayfield, are making a £500 award to Claire O'Brien, a graduate who is studying law at City University. The hope is to raise further funds. Details from Miss Scott-Bayfield, 0171-440 7000.

Contact group

THE association of Anglo-Australasian Lawyers was launched in London last week. Set up by Ian Hunter, QC, and Garry Downes, QC, the group aims to provide points of contact between the two jurisdictions.

The Birmingham solicitors Pinsent Curtis have been told by their senior partner, Julian Tonks, that their colleague, property lawyer Adrian Mackinlay, will henceforth be known as Hannah Mackinlay. Mr Tonks said the matter was an "extremely personal one, which we hope will be treated sensitively".

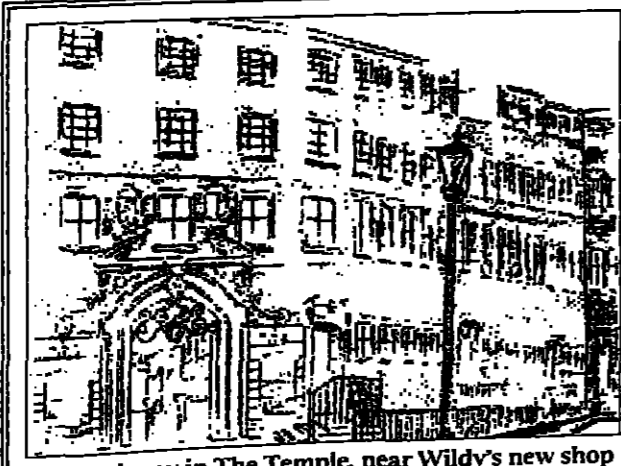
Big in Brum

A GIANT new set, made up of 81 barristers, has been formed in Birmingham by the merger of two chambers. Priority Chambers and Seven Fountain Court.

The set, which is called St Phillips Chambers after the nearby cathedral, rivals the Five Fountain Court for size.

Booking an expansion

WILDY & Sons, the law bookseller that has traded from Lincoln's Inn archway since 1830, is opening a new shop at the entrance to The Temple via Inner Temple Lane. Wildy's, a browsing ground for generations of lawyers, had a branch in the Middle Temple cloisters, but it was destroyed in 1941. The new shop, at 11 Fleet Street, will have a gallery of prints and engravings downstairs.



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السنة الأولى

Jeremy McMullen and Roy Lewis analyse a new attempt to offer fairness at work

Here come the unions again

Trite law is how advocates and judges explain away points they cannot be bothered to look up. *Fairness at Work*, the Government's White Paper, contains at least three points of trite employment law, which need no longer be researched because they are to be dumped.

The procedure for a union to obtain recognition from an employer for the purposes of collective bargaining involves radical rethinking of key tenets of employment law, but not for the first time.

The 1998 model is built from the templates enacted in the 1971 Industrial Relations Act and the 1975 Employment Protection Act. What is different from 1971 is that this time the unions are desperate to make the law work for them.

The pathway to legal enforcement of workers' rights is enticing when the saviours are Tony Blair and Ian McCartney rather than Ted Heath and Robert Carr.

This time the obstacle of union registration under a tight regime is either missing, or more realistically is already in place in a different form, which the unions have taken in their stride; statutory regulation of executive elections, strike ballots, political funds and union discipline, once anathema, are now mainstream.

The procedure allows a union to claim recognition when it has a majority of the members in a bargaining unit, or where in a ballot 51 per cent of the unit vote for a union and that majority constitutes 40 per cent of the workers in the unit. The Central Arbitration Committee (CAC), largely unemployed throughout the 1980s and 90s, will be put to work to resolve disputes about what the unit is, and it will order balloting.

Radical, at least to the common law, are the proposals for enforcement of the result of a successful ballot, or of proof that 51 per cent are actually signed up. First, there is to be legal imposition of a model collective bargaining agreement. This is not a solecism: the CAC imposes agreement. Under the agreement, the union and the employer meet each other and negotiate to create procedures for representing the workforce collectively on pay

and conditions on the one hand, and (it must be assumed because it is not in the White Paper) on individual grievances and disciplinary action on the other. This is a contract to negotiate, a concept Lord Denning dispatched in 1975 as being 'not a contract known to the law'.

Secondly, there is to be enforcement of the imposed collective agreements as a matter of routine contract law. Admittedly, there is nothing now to prevent legal enforceability, but over the past 25 years we are aware of only three agreements that were legally binding, one expressly (electrical contracting), one unwittingly (in a hotel chain) and one in the unique circumstances of reintroducing independent unions at GCHQ.

Thirdly, there is to be specific performance, that is a court order to comply explicitly with specific terms, of contracts associated with the employment relationship, hitherto a shibboleth. If some judges know little of employment law, they at least remember that rule from law school. A union will be able to apply to the High Court for an order that the employer should negotiate, or should agree to procedures. Refusal to comply will open the employer to penalties, such as fines, sequestration of assets and imprisonment of directors, for contempt of court.

It is at present unclear whether the union can ask the CAC to impose terms relating to pay, hours and holidays if the employer is not negotiating, or is simply going through the motions. In the past, this power proved an effective discouragement to employers who refused to negotiate, or refused to give information relevant to collective bargaining. If by order of the CAC they were going to have to pay the kind of wages that a workforce represented by a strong independent union would be able to negotiate, they might as well recognise it in the first place. As an alternative, the imposed procedure could itself provide for legally binding arbitration by the CAC of terms of employment of individual employees in the unit.

These proposals bear a striking resemblance to the legal structures in the reviled 1971 Act, which lasted two years and was never tested. At the same time these



Grunwick, where the employer refused to give details to the conciliation service

proposals trump the hand played by employers to defeat the procedures put in place by Harold Wilson and Michael Foot's 1975 Act which, in this respect, had an equally short shelf life. At a stroke, by cutting through ancient common law rules and also by imposing discipline on unions wanting to play at this table, the White Paper will overcome two critical defects that stultified the 1975 regime.

In a recognition dispute at a north London photograph processing factory known as Grunwick, balloting of the workforce was made impossible by the employer's refusal to give names and addresses to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas). Now it would be under a statutory duty to cooperate, enforceable by court order. And inter-union rivalry, which frustrated recognition in the engineering industry,

would now be avoided by debarring competitive union claims; unions, assisted by the TUC, would have to co-operate or one of them gracefully withdraw from the race. The CAC will not have to decide between them.

It was the failure of the law in the late 1970s to deal with these two spectacular disputes, fought to the House of Lords, which led Acas to utter its *cri de coeur* for more powers or to be relieved of its role in statutory recognition disputes.

We also learnt that lengthy investigations are worthless: recognition delayed is recognition denied so the new process for resolving disputes is under a strict timetable. By these radical legal measures, unions are once again restored to a central role in promoting fairness at work.

© Jeremy McMullen, QC, and Professor Roy Lewis are barristers at Old Square Chambers.

Across the great World Cup divide

Why is an English firm working in France?

Clifford Chance has become the Coca-Cola of the legal world. The law firm, blending national and international identities and constantly weaving itself into the fabric of business life, is sure to turn up, suitably attired, whatever the big news of the moment.

And now that means the World Cup. The firm was appointed legal adviser to the French Organising Committee (FOC) in 1994, but the toughest challenge for the Clifford Chance team, led by Yves Wehrli, has been handling the furore over ticket arrangements.

M Wehrli, faced by continuing investigations from the European Commission and legal action by a group of MEPs, is consoling himself that the FOC has been relatively free of litigation. During the past four years, Clifford Chance has built a formidable legal machine for handling everything from negotiating IT and travel sponsorships to the hire of stadiums all over France. M Wehrli says that the firm's main concern has been with the logistics of organisation.

Given the intense feelings of nationalism aroused by the World Cup — and in particular its organisation — it might seem remarkable that the FOC was willing to hand it over to a law firm with headquarters in England. "If I may say so," M Wehrli responds, "that is a very Anglocentric view of things. The French practice of Clifford Chance is run from Paris. Seventy-five per cent of our lawyers are French citizens and 95 per cent are qualified *avocats*. We have been in France for a long time and we are now seen as being French."

M Wehrli concedes, however, that Clifford Chance's worldwide network was regarded as a great asset when the FOC made its choice of law firms. "The organising committee wanted a firm which had a strong international reputation," he says, "and that gave us an advantage over firms which were only based domestically."

What also impressed the FOC was the youth of the Clifford Chance team. "One rival firm's presentation was made entirely by 40 and 50-year-olds. They were rejected for that reason alone," recalls M Wehrli, who confesses to being a football nut and who was, in his youth, offered professional terms by three clubs. He turned them down

for the law. "I'm still not sure I made the right decision," he says.

But if you can't play in the World Cup then perhaps the next best thing is to negotiate the catering and travel arrangements for the teams who do. Last week M Wehrli's mind was focused on how Air France was to fulfil its contract to ferry all 32 squads to the various venues in the face of a strike by pilots. M Wehrli comments: "Air France has an absolute responsibility to do this. And I'm sure that, somehow, the airline will achieve it."

Clifford Chance is not the only firm sitting on the edge of its seat in the next few weeks. Freshfields will be doing its usual job in support of the English



Football Association, and Rakisons has taken advantage of the surge in gambling on the World Cup to offer advice in the new phenomenon of betting via the Internet. Its client City Index, the giant spreadbetting bookmaker, has created an interactive fixed-odds website.

But what if it all goes wrong for visitors to France whose holidays are ruined by partying fans or whose tickets, bought as part of a package, are rejected at the turnstiles? Field Fisher Waterhouse, the legal travel experts, picked up sizeable chunks of work after the two previous World Cups from disgruntled holidaymakers. They expect to do the same this year.

So whoever wins on July 12, the final whistle will signal the start of some interesting litigation. It will also mark the beginning of Clifford Chance's bid for the World Cup in 2002. "We have gained unique experience," M Wehrli says. "We have covered the World Cup from A to Z. If all goes well we must build on this for the future." Let's hope they don't go out on penalties.

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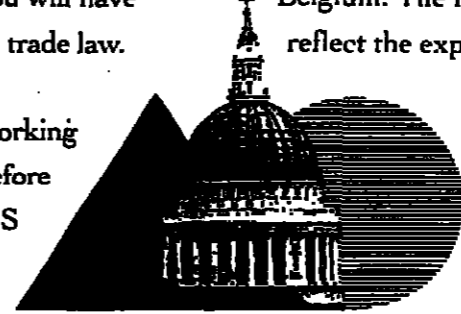
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Beaten rivals united in acclaim of extraordinary German driver



Schumacher takes a giant leap back into the title hunt in Montreal on Sunday

Schumacher earns grudging respect for awesome talent

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN MONTREAL

LIFE IN FAST LANE

A VARIETY of words were flying around yesterday as Formula One tried to find some means of describing its greatest asset. Even the drivers who openly and enthusiastically criticised his often brutal tactics, though, put their hands up and admitted that Michael Schumacher is simply awesome.

His victory in the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday will rank as one of the most impressive demonstrations of the art and science of driving a Formula One car, in one of the most extraordinary grands prix.

David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen dejectedly packed their bags, knowing that their early-season domination of the world championship is over. Schumacher put his marker on the title on Sunday and, with more modifications to come for his Ferrari Grand Prix in three weeks time, his threat will increase.

Eddie Irvine, Schumacher's team-mate, had described the Canadian Grand Prix as a watershed for the German's championship ambitions. If the Ferrari was not close in Montreal, he could forget it — but Schumacher was close, very close, just two-tenths of a second off the lead in qualifying.

Yet the difference is in the man, not the car. Coulthard and Hakkinen are acknowledged as two of the best drivers, but Schumacher is a cut above. No matter what happened around him on the circuit on Sunday, he could not be deflected from his goal of winning. No matter that

Born: Kerpen, Germany.
Age: 29.
Grands prix: 108.
Wins: 29 — only Alain Prost (51), Ayrton Senna (41) and Nigel Mansell (31) have won more.
Pole positions: 17.
World champion: 1994, 1995.
Teams: Jordan 1991; Benetton 1992-95; Ferrari 1996-98.

Coulthard and Hakkinen had the superior McLarens, no matter that Williams attempted to have his victory erased after pushing Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the track. He emerged from the stewards' inquiry smiling and relaxed. Lesser mortals wonder how Schumacher can get away with incidents like that; indeed, any other driver might have been shown the black flag and told his race was over. But not Schu-

though, with a talent as big as that of Schumacher and a willpower that seems to draw on forces beyond ordinary human nature. Apart from his ability at the wheel, Schumacher brings an intensity to his racing that frightens some drivers and overawes others. Irvine is not easily impressed — he was punched on the jaw by Ayrton Senna for daring to overtake the great champion in his first race — but the Irishman adopts an almost fawning admiration for his senior team-mate: "He can get things out of a car that nobody else can. Just because Hakkinen leads the championship doesn't make him the best driver, he just has the best car. Michael is easily the best driver in the world."

It was not a reminder that the McLaren pair will want to hear. The façade of power and durability that surrounded McLaren Mercedes, after five victories from six races before Canada this season, has been shattered. The cars are now revealed as vulnerable and

He brings an intensity to his racing that frightens some and overawes others

He served a 10sec penalty and still won the race with a series of searing laps that no one in Formula One could match. Jacques Villeneuve, who had first-hand experience of Schumacher's no-holds-barred approach in the final race last season, was exasperated yesterday. The Canadian spoke for many drivers when he said: "What Michael did is quite amazing. After all he did last year and what happened in Monaco, when he hit Pedro Diniz, it's amazing that nothing more severe is done than a 10sec penalty." The rules can barely cope.

Coulthard and Hakkinen wore haunted looks as they strode away from the Gilles Villeneuve Circuit, both having retired from the race early with broken cars. What appeared to be an exclusive title contest between the pair has been thrown wide open, with Schumacher five points clear of Coulthard and only 12 behind Hakkinen. More important, Schumacher has the impetus and has imposed the full force of his personality and will, a power that is certain to haunt Coulthard and Hakkinen in the days leading up to the French Grand Prix.

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29 MAY	CAPITAL ASSET FINANCE LTD	FRIELFORD HEATH	121
29 MAY	CLARKS INTERNATIONAL	CAKE MANOR	131
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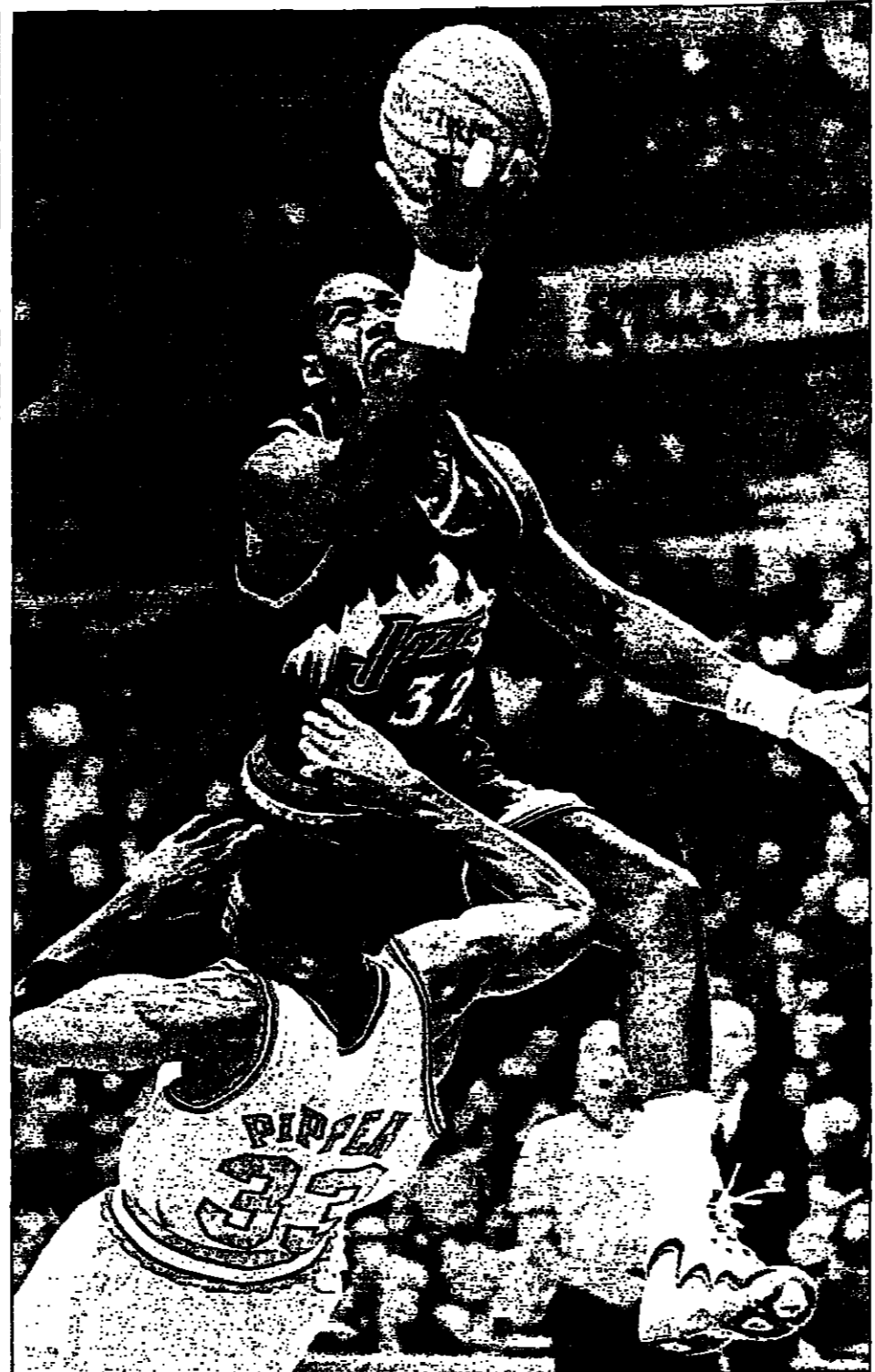
Kendall insists his position at Everton is safe

By DAVID MADDOCK

HOWARD KENDALL arrived home from a holiday in Spain yesterday insisting that his position as manager of Everton was secure, despite mounting speculation that Martin O'Neill would leave Leicester City for Merseyside as his replacement.

It is unlikely that Kendall — whose Everton side secured their FA Carling Premiership status on the final day of the season — will keep his job, no matter how much he protests. If O'Neill decides to stay at Leicester, then Johnson is thought ready to take the bold move of sacking his manager without an obvious replacement and then wait in hope for a likely candidate.

Chris Hull, the Football League spokesman, said: "It's an incredible feat and the best season since 1959-60. It's a marvellous platform to take us into our 100th championship season."



Karl Malone, of Utah Jazz, runs over Scottie Pippen in the third game of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals, but it was mostly one-way traffic for Chicago Bulls, who registered the biggest victory in the history of the series with a 96-54 win to go 2-1 up in the best-of-seven series.

Michael Jordan, who scored 24 points, said: "We didn't expect it to be this easy." Toni Kukoc added 16 points and Scottie Pippen and Scott Burrell ten apiece.

Jackman breaks her finals hoodoo. Jackman has lost four major finals to Fitz-Gerald in the past two years, including the 1996 World Open final that took the Australian to world No 1 status.

SQUASH

Jackman breaks her finals hoodoo

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

CASSANDRA JACKMAN, England's world No 4, has defeated Sarah Fitz-Gerald of Australia, the world champion, in the final of the Mercedes Squash Open in Seattle.

GOLF

Rose aims to rise to Amateur challenge

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THE British women's Amateur Championship, which starts at Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield, today, features 140 players from all over the globe.

ATHLETICS

Wilkins creates cup selection dilemma after record throw

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER breaking the British discus record at the weekend, Perris Wilkins left for California yesterday to train with the athlete whose European Cup title he now threatens.

Max Jones, the Great Britain performance director, is delighted with the dilemma that the selectors will face next Monday, when they pick the squad to defend the men's European Cup in St Petersburg on June 27 and 28.

Wilkins said, "I was never anything bigger than the Inter-Counties championship, making his debut for Britain only last month. Like his first British record, his latest was set in a minor meeting, 66.64 metres in the Midland League second division."

FOR THE RECORD

Table containing sports results for American Football, Basketball, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Golf, Rowing, Tennis, and Swimming.

MOTORCYCLING

Table containing motorcycle racing results for various events including the Norton Superbike and the British Superbike.

Advertisement for the Nissan Profile car, featuring a large image of the vehicle and text describing its features and price. The car is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a road.

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Large vertical advertisement for Stoute racing equipment, featuring the brand name in a stylized font and images of racing-related items.

Table of fixtures for various sports including Pool Football, Cricket, and Rugby League, listing teams and dates.

Blatter set to carry on where Havelange left off

Rob Hughes believes that defeat for Johansson has left Fifa with two honorary presidents

The world of international football, a million-dollar business even more than a game these days, has a new leader... but some terrible old intrigues, accusations and controversies.

In the very hour that Joseph "Sepp" Blatter, the former Swiss Army colonel, defeated Lenart Johansson, of Sweden, by 111 votes to 80 to become the new president of Fifa, he was asked the most devastating of questions. It was a public place, a world press conference, and Blatter was outraged to be asked: "There is talk that your campaign was corrupt, that votes were bought by \$50,000 in envelopes. How do you answer those allegations?"

Blatter's face clouded: "The game is over," he said. Then, his voice rising with barely concealed anger, he added: "The players have already gone to the changing-room. I will not respond to this question."

The question concerning England was raised almost in the same breath as the tortured argument over the presidency. Had Johansson, the president of Uefa, the European governing body of

football, been elected to this higher post, England's chances of hosting the 2006 World Cup would have been nil. Now that Blatter is in charge, the chances for England register as high as 60 per cent.

It is true that Blatter, to win votes and influence friendships, announced in Africa that Africa should host the World Cup. However, yesterday, with England's vote comfortably in his pocket, Fifa's new figurehead prevaricated on Africa. He said, with undoubted truth, that no one could be sure Africa had the organisation to construct a World Cup so soon. The implications are clear: Blatter might support England, the one country that has spent £3 billion on renovating the required number of stadiums to host a 32-nation World Cup; and he might gain support for Africa, if ready, in 2010.

That is informed speculation, though. What happened yesterday was fact. Fifa now has not one, but two "honorary presidents". How so? Blatter, having campaigned to the end on a platform of continuing the works of Jose Havelange, the Brazilian to whom he was general secretary at Fifa for 23 years, concurred with the executive



Blatter, the new Fifa president, refused to answer charges of corrupt voting. Photograph: Thomas Coex

committee that runs Fifa on bestowing on Havelange the position of honorary president. Furthermore, Blatter announced that he will accept no salary in the post, hence the two honorary presidents.

The margin of Blatter's victory astounded everyone in the hall, not least Johansson, who, without waiting for a second ballot to which he was entitled, conceded

the victory, using a similar phrase to Blatter, "the game is over". Johansson is too big, too proud and too decent a man to publicly air suspicions that were put to him even before they were thrown at Blatter. "Of course, I am disappointed. I never believed from all that I was promised that I could achieve such a small number of votes."

Asked directly about the so-called envelopes containing dollars, Johansson replied: "I don't speculate on this — you may. I'm going to stick to the programme, the visions on which I canvassed. I'm going to continue if that is the wish of Uefa, to do everything I can towards leading the European members, and, if Mr Blatter is willing, I shall offer him respect

and co-operation, as someone who loses a contest should do. I feel that I have let down those who supported me, those members of the Fifa executive who in the majority were behind me, and Pelé, who I really hoped to restore to the family of Fifa."

So, wounded but unbowed, a little bewildered about where the votes went, Johansson cleared the stage for Blatter. "I learnt a lesson again today, because I was quite sure about the situation, people told me they were going to vote for me, and obviously they did not. I have no intention at all to take some sort of revenge, or to misuse the fact that I am representing the majority of the executive. I have told Mr Blatter I respect him, but that does not mean I will not stick to my principles. I will work with him, if he will make some compromises to the views and the support that I represented today."

Yet there is already danger to the unity that Blatter has called for. It concerns Michel Platini, the former captain of France and now organiser of the World Cup there. "Platini was a great footballer," Johansson said. "I don't think it was right to offer him to be the Fifa director of sport without any discussion within the executive. I don't know if the position would be right for him. He's not employed yet to my knowledge, at least I hope not."

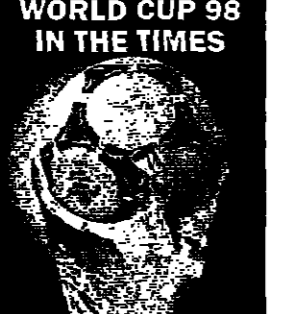
Over to the new president. He, in his first flush of power, reiterated that Platini would be the director of sport at Fifa by October or November. When it was suggested that this was unconstitutional, that like Havelange before him, he was beginning his reign in a dictatorial fashion, without consulting the members, Blatter retorted: "I just answer: what about Pelé?" The inference was, though it was never spoken, that Johansson would have made Pelé an offer similar to that Blatter intends giving to Platini.

Blatter had privately said he felt he would win 20 votes from Africa, and had been promised 18 by Europeans. Johansson was resigned to the possibility that these figures, totally contrary to the pledges he held, were probably accurate. And George Weah, of Liberia, who, while still playing, is ambassador for sport for his country, said: "It was wrong for Johansson to assume he had Africa. Africans represent a lot of cultures, you cannot oblige them to vote together in a certain way. Anyway, why change something that Havelange and Blatter built up together?"

Indeed, Blatter canvassed as a candidate for continuation. The octogenarian president has partially gone, but his lieutenant is now in charge.

Germans admit two players are under treatment

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON



WITH the start of the World Cup finals only 48 hours away, injury updates dominated the news from the various training camps yesterday. With more alluring stories unlikely to emerge until the series of group matches gets under way tomorrow, every cough, sprain and strain took on an extra dimension.

Germany, the European champions, appeared most concerned by the medical bulletins, with Christian Ziege, the wing back, unable to train because of a virus and Thomas Helmer, the central defender, also sidelined by thigh trouble. The only comfort for Bert Vogts, the coach, is that Germany's first game in group F, against the United States in Paris, is not until next Monday.

"It's a real shame for Helmer because, mentally, he has been in good form and is feeling positive," Vogts said. "I hope he is going to get back very soon. As for Ziege, we will leave it to the doctors to decide."

Vogts and his players have found peace of mind in their training camp, which is situated in a quiet village in the hills

outside Nice. There are few distractions and only the sound of croaking frogs to disturb their sleep. "The conditions are perfect," Vogts said. "We are ready to get started."

Denmark, who open their group C campaign against Saudi Arabia on Friday, have a worry about Michael Laudrup, the Ajax midfielder player. Laudrup, 33, has twisted his left knee. "He did not practise today, but it shouldn't be a problem," Bo Johansson, the Denmark coach, said.

Although Denmark have lost their past three warm-up games, Laudrup's brother, Brian, who will be playing for Chelsea next season, main-

tained an upbeat mood. "The World Cup starts here for real and we're looking forward to it. We've always said that it starts when we get to France and not before."

Italy, favourites to win group B, have a doubt about Moreno Torricelli, the Juventus defender, who has hurt his right foot. He sustained the injury in a training match at Italy's pre-tournament base near Florence on May 28 and has not trained with the squad since the players arrived in France last Friday.

The Italian media believe the injury could be serious enough to force Torricelli to return home before the opening match against Chile on Thursday.

However, Andrea Ferretti, the team doctor, said yesterday that the foot was responding to intensive treatment. "He has a bruised muscle," Ferretti said. "We're keeping an eye on it, but it's not particularly serious."

Chile's concern that Ivan Zamorano, their striker, would not be fit for the opening game appears to be groundless. He is back training after a knee injury, which, he said, "was nowhere as serious as it was made out to be."



Scotland goalkeepers Jim Leighton, left, and Jonathan Gould discuss ideas during training at Petite Crau stadium in St Remy de Provence

A new experience for an old hand

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN AVIGNON

NOT even Jim Leighton has seen it all before. At 39, the goalkeeper is the oldest player at the 1998 World Cup and this is the fourth occasion that he has travelled to the tournament, but participation in the opening match of the event, at the Stade de France tomorrow, will still be a new experience. The opposition, however, are familiar foes.

"I have a lot of respect for Taffarel. At full time, I stood on my 18-yard line, trying to take in every detail of the scene because I thought it was going to be my last appearance at the World Cup. Eventually, Taffarel came down the pitch to shake hands. He was very kind and we had a long chat afterwards."

The conversation may resume tomorrow, once the match is over and the two veterans are not restricted to peering at one another down the long avenue of the field.

Leighton has, of necessity, become something of a connoisseur of Brazil sides.

"They are far better now," he said, "than they were in 1990. This year, they are a lot more convincing as potential winners of the World Cup. All the talk is about Ronaldo, but Brazil have several excellent players and Bebeto is still going to be a threat in attack."

Leighton is never liable to be overdrawn at the memory bank. His hoard of recollections is large and closely guarded. Few details are ever mislaid. In common with so many other men in his line of work, he can summon up fine details of goals conceded.

In Leighton's first match at the World Cup finals, in 1986, Preben Elkjaer's goal for Denmark defeated the Scots. "He got a break of the ball, virtually playing a one-two off

Willie Miller's shin and scuffed his shot off the inside of the far post," the goalkeeper said, providing the annotations. It would be understandable if the memories were kept fresh by brooding.

Leighton has appeared in six World Cup matches, yet only the meeting with Sweden, in 1990, ended in a win for Scotland. He has not been sated by success and perhaps it is a hunger to improve the record that explains the extent of the involvement with international football. "I take it as a compliment when I am described as the oldest player here," he said.

Nobody else in the Scotland has had quite so august a career, but several of the men around Leighton have displayed powers of endurance. Colin Hendry, Colin Calderwood and Tom Boyd, the three

central defenders detailed to shield him against Brazil, are, respectively, 32, 33 and 32. Eight of tomorrow's likely line-up are aged 30 or over.

They are not charged with obsolescence because Scotland's results have generally glowed with good health. Instead of worrying over the yellowing birth certificates, supporters can count themselves lucky that they are watching a team in which experience has not quite decayed into infirmity. It may even have been to Scotland's advantage that a few players are conscious of time passing.

These are men who know that the next bad game could also be their last game. They take the field with a determination, and a need, to demonstrate their continuing relevance. Brazil's path will be blocked by a long-toothed group who have never been in the habit of budging.

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Moore takes his final bow with controlled emotion



Moore: supreme professional

When Brian Moore retires after the World Cup Final at the age of 66, it will be the end of the career of one of the most distinguished and best-loved figures in television sport. To some supporters, particularly of his beloved Gillingham, he has become an icon. Why else would they have named their fanzine *Brian Moore's Head Looks Uncannily Like the London Planetarium?*

Moore's words seconds before Michael Thomas scored the second goal at Anfield to give Arsenal the 1989 league championship are also inscribed in the hearts of the supporters at Highbury. They were: "It's up for grabs now." Moore knew how to capture the moment with controlled emotion.

This affection is also felt by other commentators, such as John Motson, his rival on BBC but between whom there is respect and friendship.

John Goodbody pays tribute to the farmworker's son who became the voice of football in Britain

For someone such as Motson, noted for his meticulous preparation, to say that Moore has been the "supreme professional" is an accolade. "Brian has never shirked from his homework and taken the easy route," Motson said. "Even before the FA Cup Final last month, there he was at the training, anxious to know the line-up and scrutinising the players."

Moore joined ITV from BBC radio, for whom he had commented on the 1966 World Cup final. He received an overture from Jimmy Hill, then head of sport at London Weekend Television: "I want you to come and climb a mountain with me."

Moore has worked on every World Cup since 1966. He has seen

the second yellow card, which meant he would have missed the final. "There was such horror in his eyes," Moore comes from a modest background in rural Kent. His father was a farmhand and the family lived in a council house.

He won a scholarship at the age of 11 to Cranbrook and, after a commission in the RAF, began working in journalism, first with *World Sports*, then with the *Exchange Telegraph* and *The Times*, before joining the BBC.

One innovation, in which he played a pivotal part, was the studio panel. "We broke the mould of sporting analysis," he said. "Until 1970, except for Jimmy Hill on *The Big Match*, television criticism had been fairly mealy-mouthed, but with people such as Malcolm Allison, Paddy Crerand, who wore his heart on his sleeve, Derek Dougan, Bob McNab and Brian Clough, things changed."

Scholes to emerge as centre of attention

Eccentric to raise S...

Handwritten note: "Bergkamp 15.5.99"

Quiet midfield player prepares to take Gascoigne's role

Scholes to emerge as centre of attention

BY MATT DICKINSON

PAUL SCHOLES walks into press conferences apologetically, like a man who has stumbled into the wrong meeting in the wrong room. As he frets, fidgets and answers questions as politely, but as briefly, as he can, one eye is already searching for the exit.

It is only with a gun to his head that he comes in at all. If Scholes had his way, he would never appear in public apart from the compulsory 90 minutes on a Saturday afternoon. Not so easy when you play for Manchester United, where they expect fashion models as well as footballers.

Only 23 but already a millionaire, the Salford boy has never had, or wanted for, an agent. His only commercial deal to date was to appear on the back of a pack of Shreddies. In an Old Trafford car park that doubles as a showroom for Porsches and Ferraris, Scholes has eschewed all the flash racers for the reliability of his Jeep.

When the England players were carousing in the karaoke bar in La Manga last week, it is a safe bet that Scholes was trying to hide under a table at the back. He will not be auditioning as the next Ginger Spice.

He is, in short, the antithesis of Paul Gascoigne, yet it is Gascoigne's international role that Scholes may be about to fill now that Hoddle has decided that the Middle-brough man is not fit enough — or should that be unfit? — to wear the England shirt.

For a starting place in central midfield against Tunisia on June 15 and it would be foolish to doubt his chances of holding on to the shirt.

Certainly Alex Ferguson, his manager at Manchester United but an objective observer of the England team, believes that the player he once called "a bloody little nuisance" because his form made him undroppable can fill the Gascoigne void with aplomb.

"For the vital role of central link man between the midfield and the forwards, there is no need to look past Paul," he said even before the revelation that Gascoigne would not be flying to France. "He has good control, the vision to see all types of passes and the technique to execute them. He is courageous and tough and can score from outside or inside the box."

He has also got the temperament. A redhead he may be, but Scholes is no firebrand. His composure, evident in the precise shooting that sees him regarded by Ferguson as the best finisher at Old Trafford, was such that he took to international football as well as any young player in recent memory, Michael Owen included.

Who will forget his performance against Italy in Le Tournoi last summer, when he marked his first start in an England shirt by setting up Ian Wright, with the type of penetrative pass that his international manager perfected, and then scored with considerable style himself?

His record is three goals in seven games for his country, a faster rate than Alan Shearer managed in his fledgling international days and one that may tip the balance in his



Scholes may be asked by England to step out from the shadows in the World Cup

favour over McManaman. Hoddle was certainly in effusive mood yesterday about Scholes's prospects for the coming month.

"I have gone on record many times saying this lad has everything as an offensive player in many different positions," he said yesterday. "In terms of the end product he delivers, he is better than any of the youngsters. And he's going to get better and better."

He shies away from the press and just gets on with his work. He lets what he does on the pitch do the talking.

Because of that, he's not looked at as a future superstar. He's not going to mould himself that way. But if he does become one — which he can — it will be because of what he has done out on the pitch, which is the best way."

The ultimate irony, should Scholes live up to Hoddle's eulogy, is that it was Gascoigne who most inspired him as a teenage apprentice. Like thousands of 15-year-olds across England, he sat transfixed by Gascoigne's audacity in the World Cup in 1990. Scholes undoubtedly lacks

the ability to burst past players as Gascoigne did in his pomp. He does not have the set-piece skills of the man who is now exiled from the England squad. But he may be the best that Hoddle has and he appears to be growing into the job.

Asked to face the press a year ago, Scholes only relented if one of his Manchester United team-mates went in to hold his hand. Still not a man of many words, at least yesterday he strolled in unaccompanied. Soon we will discover if he can take centre stage.

Bergkamp doubtful according to Wenger

ARSENE WENGER, the Arsenal manager, fears that Dennis Bergkamp will miss all three of Holland's group matches in France. Bergkamp, who missed Arsenal's triumphant end to the domestic season because of a hamstring injury, is already doubtful for Holland's opening two matches in group E and Wenger is worried that the Dutch may try to rush him back before he is fully fit.

"I think he may miss more than the opening two games," Wenger predicted yesterday. "I think the fact that he didn't play at all for such a long time will make the World Cup very difficult for him."

The Holland team doctor admitted on Sunday that Bergkamp's injury was "far worse than estimated" and Guus Hiddink, the national coach, said that the forward's lack of match-practice was a huge concern. Bergkamp has not kicked a ball in earnest for almost six weeks. Holland's first match is against Belgium on Saturday.

"I don't think that he will miss the whole tournament, but it will be difficult for him to be at his best at least until the end of the month — that means until the quarter-finals — because he is short of match practice," Wenger said.

"I'm worried about him because I'm scared they will push him a little bit. He could be injured again and then of course he'll miss the start of the season."

Sixteen African countries could co-host the World Cup, according to a Tanzanian proposal put to the world governing body yesterday. Fifa said that it would consider the idea. Tanzania proposed that eight nations should stage group matches, with four others hosting the second round and two more holding the quarter-finals. The semi-finals and final would be held in two further countries.

THE TIMES Under the skin of the World Cup PLUS: PRIZE MONEY OF £50,000 TO BE WON IN OUR WORLD CUP FANTASY GAME

Eccentric Troussier attempts to raise South African spirits

Inigo Gilmore talks to the coach who has become known as the 'white witchdoctor'



President Mandela joins Troussier and his South Africa team. Photograph: Adil Bradlow

Just as Arsène Wenger has transformed Arsenal through new fitness and health techniques, his friend, Philippe Troussier, has been hailed as a French revolutionary since becoming South Africa coach earlier this year. The man nicknamed the white witchdoctor has made his mark with his own controversial methods of psychology and the use of muti, a traditional medicine.

Troussier's approach at his first South Africa training session shocked players who were used to the casual, chummy sessions conducted by the two previous coaches. He physically pushed some of them around and taunted them with jibes such as "you've got no balls".

For Troussier, 43, who says that the team does not need a psychologist because "I am their psychologist", it is all part of what he terms his "magic soup", a technique blending European and African influences. A key ingredient is "macho players" who will not bend under pressure. "My way is force — it's a mental approach," he said, stabbing his finger for emphasis.

To illustrate his point, he explained how, when a player is injured, he sometimes orders the physiotherapist to hold back before treating him, so that a salutary lesson is learnt. "It's important that the player bites his teeth," Troussier said in heavily accented English. "It is also important that the player accepts the pain."

As a teacher and physiotherapist who studied medicine for two years, Troussier takes a scientific approach to football and has sought to complement efforts to instil mental toughness with improved fitness through better training, diet and health care. Several players have been ordered to slim

down and certain soft drinks have been banned. But there is more to Troussier that makes him, in his own words, a "little different". Some of his tactical ploys, for example to beat offside traps, have introduced completely new ideas to his players. In addition, he believes coaching in Africa for ten years has enabled him to provide the team's spiritual needs.

A former French league player with Red Star, Rouen and Reims, Troussier's first taste of African football came when he coached ASEC Abidjan, the leading club side in Ivory Coast, to a three-year unbeaten run. He steered Nigeria through their successful qualifying campaign for this World Cup and, earlier this year, managed perhaps his biggest achievement when he led Burkina Faso, the hosts and no-hopers, into the semi-

finals of the African Nations' Cup. It was while working in the Ivory Coast that Troussier was elevated by fans to mythical status and when, he said, he discovered his "magic part". He began to incorporate in his own football philosophy what he discovered in local African cultures — their rituals as well as their style of football.

He believes the two are often inextricable, particularly in the connection between football and muti, a loose term used to describe traditional medicines produced by sangomas — witchdoctors — which are said to have magical qualities. "Sometimes I think I have magical powers," he said. "Sometimes I think I'm a white witchdoctor. The force from Africa is a mix of scientific and spiritual."

Shortly after arriving in South Africa, Troussier attended an African cleansing

ritual at the Soweto home of Winnie Mandela, the former wife of President Nelson Mandela. There he slaughtered a goat, washed his hands in its blood and ate it while an iryanga — a soothsayer — appealed to ancestors to look after him and the team. The coach said this inspired him. His pre-World Cup plans include a visit for his players to a witchdoctor who will give them muti, a mix of animal parts, roots and crushed plants. Traditionally in South Africa, players have bathed in muti, wiped it on their bodies or put it in their boots before a game and Troussier said he will allow his team to do this.

It is difficult to know how much Troussier plays up to his image, but he insisted people should take him seriously. After Friday, when South Africa face France in their opening game in Marseilles, maybe they will.

FANTASY WORLD CUP LIVE ON ITV (IT COULD GET MESSY) 10:40PM STARTS TONIGHT

Fingers of blame about to be pointed

BY SIMON WILDE

THE counties, often charged with obstructive parochialism by those who champion the primacy of the national team...

If Yorkshire and Surrey fail to progress from the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals today, there will be those all too willing to blame injuries sustained to key players during the first Test match at Edgbaston...

The club versus country debate remains unresolved. England want complete control of leading players, the counties do not want to be penalised for producing internationals...

Essex, who probably would not still be in the competition had not rain saved them from a likely group defeat at Cardiff, may be the least-fancied of the four sides...

Their injury problems are diminishing - Prichard, out since April with shin splints, is now the only absentee...

Yorkshire replace Gough with Stemp or Sidebottom and have worked overtime to repair their own pivotal Australian batsman, Lehmann...

Leicestershire also have psychological hurdles to surmount against Surrey, whom they have never beaten in four meetings in the competition...

Another member of that cup-winning Surrey side was Lewis, who has since moved back to Leicestershire, his original club, and leads them today in the absence of Whitaker...

Big crowds are expected at both games, but neither was sold out yesterday.

CRICKET: SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN ORDERS EXTRA WORK FOR TEAM'S STRIKE BOWLERS

England left thwarted but hopeful

BY ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (final day of five): England drew with South Africa

THIS time, at least, it was widely forecast, but that could not relieve the frustration of unfinished business, the sense of repeated injustice...

As the Edgbaston square roared beneath its giant cover yesterday, a scattering of optimists huddled under umbrellas in the stands...

This was an especially galling denial, for the England cricket had been resilient through the game and, on Sunday afternoon, magnificently assertive...

Alec Stewart, having boldly ordered such tactics in his first match as captain, had intended to declare immediately yesterday morning...

"It was a bit like Barbados," Stewart reflected, "in that we'll never know. To be honest, though, I didn't think they could score 290..."

If Stewart adopted a philosophical attitude, Cronje looked unashamedly relieved. As well he might. South Africa were thoroughly outplayed in this match...

In the short term, South Africa will address their most obvious deficiency by playing Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock in the three-day game against Sussex...

rest their two main bowlers



Pollock, watching the rain come down from the team bus, is unlikely to have shed tears at a blank final day

between Tests and reflects anxiety over their wayward efforts here. "They were short of a good rhythm," Cronje said...

pointment subsides and, with it, the nagging fear that they may have missed the main chance. England can approach the next match, in ten days time, with rather more equanimity...

was not Lord's, where their recent record is dire, they might even be regarded as favourites. They have made various psychological gains, which should never be underrated.

They have confirmed their hope that their own batting will be stronger, if not deeper, than that of South Africa and any unstated fears about the superiority of the opposition fast bowling have been dis-

SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

Table with columns for South Africa won toss, ENGLAND: First Innings, SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings, ENGLAND: Second Innings, SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings, and FALL OF WICKETS for both teams.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Towers confirm merger

BASKETBALL: London Towers and Crystal Palace made the latest contribution to the changing face of the game in Great Britain...

As the new organisation from the capital will be known as London Towers, the name of Crystal Palace will disappear...

MOTOR RALLYING: Didier Auriol, of France, outpaced Richard Burns, the British driver, to take a commanding lead on the second day of the 45th Acropolis Auto Rally...

CRICKET: The 25th Harrogate Festival began with an abandonment because of rain yesterday. With bowling at a single stump impractical, Scotland won a place in tomorrow's final...

BOXING

Ingle faces French resistance

PAUL INGLE'S new opponent, Moussa Sangare, of France, could prove to be a tougher proposition than Billy Hardy...

Hardy cried off with an injury, so instead of challenging for the European title that the Sunderland featherweight holds...

Ingle, who has Naseem Hamed in his sights, most certainly would have stopped Hardy, though it is unlikely that the manner of his victory would have been a devastating first-round affair...

Sangare is 39, but his record suggests that he might still have enough left in him to cause problems. In 1996, he stopped Rakhim Mingaleev...

On the undercard, Crawford Ashley, the British lightweight champion from Leeds, faces Tony Booth, whom he knocked out in one round two years ago...

Confident Winks eyes Bath graduation victory



Edwards ready to take leading role

MOST of the country's best young cricketers, including three players recently named for the one-day squad to play Australia in July...

One of the new selections likely to graduate next month is the vice-captain of the under-21 side, Katharine Winks...

The team had been away to Holland the previous summer, but that was only for a week. Playing in South Africa's inter-provincial tournament felt much more like a proper tour...

back and be selected for the one-day squad feels fantastic. Charlotte Edwards, still only 18, is an established England player...

Winks, who has been named in the under-21 tomorrow, the three who've moved down have been giving us some flak about how we've lost our key players...

One player still too young to feature in even this age group is Ebony Rainford-Brent. The 14-year-old Surrey schoolgirl plays for Redoubtable...

WOMEN'S CRICKET BY SARAH POTTER

Each player has been awarded £250 to help with coaching and travel costs, plus £250 worth of equipment, donated by Gunn & Moore...

Winks, 20, a second-year student at King Alfred's College in Winchester, can be happy with her rate of progress. Rainford-Brent might follow a similar path...

day I broke a team-mate's foot. Everyone said it'll teach her to move a bit quicker. I'd love to play for England one day...

Meanwhile, plans to stage an under-21 World Cup tournament here next summer appear uncertain. Barbara Daniels, the Women's Cricket Association's executive director...

Unless the ECB stumps up the money at short notice, the proposed tournament would be put on hold. Bad news for Winks and her team-mates...

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Advertisement for Dell Dimension 98 PCs. Features three models: XPS D266 (£999), XPS R350MT Multimedia (£1,199), and XPS R400 MT Multimedia (£1,449). Includes specifications for processors, RAM, hard drives, and monitors.



MOTOR RACING 47
Schumacher's hunger eats into lead of Formula One rivals

SPORT

TUESDAY JUNE 9 1998

TENNIS 54

Summer gloom leaves Lee waiting at Queen's



As World Cup squad departs for France, Fifa vote boosts future campaign



Hoping for reign: Hoddle emerges from the umbrellas at Bisham Abbey during England's last practice session at home yesterday. Photograph: André Camara

Blatter victory lifts England hopes for 2006

By JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND won its first victory of the 1998 World Cup yesterday, when the election of Sepp Blatter as the new president of Fifa transformed its hopes of staging the tournament in 2006.

On a dramatic day at the congress of the world governing body in Paris, Blatter, publicly backed by England, defeated Lennart Johansson, the Swede who has supported Germany's candidature against England for the 2006 World Cup.

England is now favoured to host the 32-nation tournament for the first time since 1966, partly because Blatter, a Swiss, who was previously the Fifa general secretary, may be obliged to reward England's late decision to change its backing of Johansson, the president of Uefa, the governing body of European football.

Blatter needed two-thirds of the 191 votes for outright victory. He won the first vote 111-80 and, though Johansson could have asked for a second poll, the Swede withdrew.

João Havelange, the Brazilian industrialist, who is retiring from the Fifa presidency after 24 years, had been keen to see Blatter succeed him. Havelange said in February during a visit to London that it was his "personal wish" that the World Cup be held in England in 2006.

Alec McGivern, the Football Association's leader of the 2006 campaign, said: "We are enormously encouraged. We are confident that Sepp Blatter will ensure a democratic and open bidding procedure when it takes place."

The Germans received another blow yesterday when the Uefa-supported proposal that only one country from each of the five continental confederations could apply to stage a World Cup in a particular year failed to get the necessary three-quarters majority. Only 87 countries voted in favour.

Both England and Germany, the two declared European candidates, therefore, can both contest the voting for 2006 when it takes place in June 2000. South Africa is the only other country to have declared its candi-

Rob Hughes 50

date, although Fifa will not send out letters inviting bids until the end of this year. All national associations will receive them except those in Asia, where Japan and South Korea will co-host the 2002 tournament.

The deadline for receiving applications will be next February. Then, in September 1999, there must be guarantees that bidders can meet conditions for staging the finals.

The decision will be made by the 24-man Fifa executive committee, on what Keith Cooper, a Fifa spokesman, describes as "the technical content of the bids submitted and how they correspond to the terms and requirements".

Germany recently lost its member of the executive committee and, although England does not have a member, David Will, one of the vice-presidents in Scotland, which has supported England's candidature.

Blatter must be careful to be

Hoddle gives final rallying cry

IN EIGHT days of ruthlessness and wrath, he has been transformed from a man who might organise the church fête to the cold-eyed assassin who could make Dirty Harry weep. Yesterday, as he sent out his final World Cup rallying call and prepared to march on France, Glenn Hoddle kept playing it cool and delivered a message that could have come straight out of a comic strip.

The speech bubble that looped into the air above Bisham Abbey where England completed their pre-

departure training contained just two words. They summed up Hoddle's attitude as he prepares for his first major competition as a coach, his belief that the team will be there in the World Cup final in Paris on July 12. "No fear," he said. "Plenty of respect for the opponents, but no fear."

There was utter authority and command about what he said. Whether it will last in the maelstrom of the tournament is another matter but for now, in the wake of his omission of Paul Gascoigne and his subjugation of Teddy Sheringham,

the England coach is exuding an air of control that bodes well for England.

These farewells have almost become an art-form now. Bobby Robson did it with bravado, slapping a sheet of paper with his team on it down on a desk and telling the rest "we're coming to get you". Graham Taylor got it horribly wrong when he told the nation to put its feet up before the 1992 European championship and watch England win it.

Whatever the true prospects of his team, Hoddle's way was more impressive than either of those predecessors. Perhaps it was his detachment, the frigidity of speech and action that makes people feel that he is one of those men whose heartbeat would stay at the same rate no matter what dramas raged around him. Perhaps it was the memory of the treatment meted out to Gascoigne and Sheringham. Fear, though, does indeed appear to have taken flight.

Hoddle expects that England will play seven games in this festival of football in France. He has planned things down to the smallest detail, not just for the three group G games that lie in wait but for every game through to the final in the Stade de France itself. When wives and girlfriends will be allowed to visit, when routines will change, where to stay, what to eat, how to relax. Everything is in hand.

It had not occurred to him, he said, that England might not progress beyond the group



Leighton prepares 50
Seibach for Germany 50
Scholes steps out 51

England's last training session by running on to the pitch dressed as a sausage believed it, too.

"I would not be sitting behind this desk if I didn't think we could win it," Hoddle said. "We have got a mixture of youth and experience, and quality players, and the fact that we qualified from a very, very tough group has left us with no reason to think anything else but that we can do well."

"We should not be going there with any fear. Plenty of respect for the new rules, plenty of respect for the opponents but no fear. Fear is something that, as a group of people if you get any fear in the camp you are on a downward spiral so we are nice and positive. We will see how the tournament unfolds. If we start slowly, we will progress from there. If we start well, that will only breed confidence."

"In the past, we may not have gone in there with fear but we have gone in with an attitude of well, we're not quite sure how it's going to go. It is not quite fear but it is a situation where you are putting it in neutral rather than into first gear and then into second and then driving it through into whatever gear you want to go to. That is what we are aiming for."

"On the back of getting to the semi-finals of Euro 96, on the back of qualifying for this tournament and what we have done away from Wembley, I don't see any reason for anything but being positive. That is why that fear is not there."



Rio Ferdinand: untried

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1427

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1 Earnest prayer (12)
9 Machbeth told to beware him (7)
10 Steak: cook slowly (5)
11 Ship, its frame (4)
12 C of E (8)
15 Painting of clouds (8)
17 Aspiration (4)
19 Wall under pitched roof (5)
21 Adjectives (7)
22 Of stargazers (12)

DOWN
1 A trade: carriage (8)
2 Poppy drug (5)
3 Light (Indian) meal (6)
4 Young frog (7)
5 Capital of Peru (4)
6 Witch (11)
8 Am. food, message: Mike's slogan (anag.) (5,6)
13 Dated event list (8)
14 Level, rank: staggered formation (7)
16 Length of time (6)
18 Elderly person (slang) (5)
20 (Fist) take bait (4)

phase, that they might be undone by Colombia, Romania and Tunisia. He believed that England could win the tournament and his players believed it. By the end of the press conference, even the man who had tried to disrupt

Stewart optimistic despite rain

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE FIRST Test between England and South Africa was abandoned at Edgbaston yesterday, when heavy rain prevented a ball being bowled on the final day. England had declared their second innings overnight, leaving the tourists to make 290 to win, but the teams were beaten by the weather.

Alec Stewart, the England cricket captain, took consolation from his team's performance after he lost an important toss and he looked ahead confidently to the rest of the series, even though England will be without Darren Gough, their opening bowler, for the second Test at Lord's. Gough broke his right index finger in this match when a ball from Allan Donald trapped it against the handle of his bat.

Stewart commended his players for following a plan they had drawn up before the England second innings began on Sunday night, 119 runs ahead. They came out

looking for quick runs to expedite the declaration, so that the bowlers could have a full day trying to get ten wickets. "What really pleased me was that everybody was prepared to risk getting out in order to play for the team."

At the end of his first Test as captain, Stewart, who also

kept wicket, did not feel burdened by his greater responsibility. "I didn't find it too different from my normal game. It wasn't an easy match, but when you bat well as a team, as we did here, then things are a lot easier."

"We played good cricket for four days and felt we deserved



The weather put a dampener on all at Edgbaston

to give ourselves the chance of winning. It isn't often that a side scores 290 on the last day of a Test match. Taking ten wickets on that pitch wasn't impossible."

Stewart praised the performance of Michael Atherton, the man he succeeded as captain last month, for making the hundred on the first day upon which England built their first innings of 462. Atherton was named man of the match for his innings of 103, ahead of Dominic Cork, whose five wickets also encouraged Stewart in his view that England can beat South Africa.

"We are a competitive side," he said, "but we are looking to improve, and there are four more Tests to go. If we continue to play as we did here then we can win the series."

England thwarted, page 53
Full scoreboard, page 53
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DOWN: 1 Basil 2 Flint 3 Redem 4 Hectare 5 Niagara
6 Grecian Urn 9 Melancholy 13 Trouble 14 MOT test
16 Chaser 19 Spume 20 Infer